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County Borough of West Bromwich



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of
West Bromwich

FOR

1954

County Borough of West Bromwich




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Health of
West Bromwich

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CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES

(at 31st December, 1954).

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Deputy Chairman: Councillor J. W. HUBBARD

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Alderman MRS. E. A. SMALLMAN Councillor R. M. RABONE
Councillor T. A. DEAKIN Councillor MRS. J. SCOTT
Councillor Miss C. E. HAZEL, Councillor J. WENLOCK
O.B.E., J.P.

Co-opted Members

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DR. F. R. SMITH
MR. L. H. TIMMINS
MR. W. E. WIMBERGER, F.R.C.S.

MENTAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

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O.B.E., J.P. DR. F. R. SMITH

HYGIENE AND CLEANSING COMMITTEE

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Deputy Chairman: Councillor F. G. PHILLIPS

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Co-opted Members

MRS. A. CROSS
REV. J. E. MILLER

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(at 31st December, 1954)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	...	G. M. FLEMING, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.
SENIOR ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	... ..	R. LINDOP, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.
ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH	... ..	A. BLENCH, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S. M. SHIELDS, M.B., Ch.B. (part-time)
CHEST PHYSICIAN	... ..	C. W. D. COLE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (part-time)
MEDICAL SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES		G. E. E. USHER SOMERS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G.
PRINCIPAL DENTAL OFFICER	...	D. HALLEY GOOSE, B.Sc., B.D.S.
DENTAL OFFICERS	... ..	J. G. POTTER, L.D.S., F.R.P.S. J. VINCENT, L.D.S. from 23.8.54
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	... ..	L. MARX, M.B., Ch.B.
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR	...	} W. W. FOAKES, M.Inst.P.C. (a) (c)
INSPECTOR OF FOOD AND DRUGS	...	
SUPERINTENDENT OF REFUSE RE-	...	
MOVAL AND DISPOSAL	... ..
DEPUTY CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR		G. H. SHAW (a) (b)
DISTRICT SANITARY INSPECTORS	...	F. A. OAKES (b) (c) F. W. BALL (b) (c) (e) C. N. JOHNSON (b) A. W. REEVES (b) (c) S. DAVIES (b) (qualified July, 1954)
(a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute. (b) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board. (c) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute. (d) Sanitary Science Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute. (e) Smoke Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.		
PUPIL SANITARY INSPECTOR	...	C. WHITEHOUSE (from November, 1954)
CHIEF NURSING OFFICER	... ..	MISS E. A. ROBERTS (a) (b) (c)
DEPUTY CHIEF NURSING OFFICER		MISS M. E. GREASLEY (a) (b) (c)
HEALTH VISITORS/SCHOOL NURSES		MISS E. M. BROSNAN (a) (b) (c) MISS D. DANKS (a) (b) (c) MISS J. GREEN (a) (b) (c) (from 1.9.54) MRS. E. HEAVEN (a) (b) (f) MISS E. JONES (a) (b) MISS E. KING (a) (b) (c) (e) MISS M. M. T. MANNING (a) (b) (c) MRS. C. PASKIN (a) (b) (c) MRS. L. SLATER (a) (b) (d) (g) MRS. M. E. WILKES (a) (b) (c)
STUDENT HEALTH VISITORS	...	MISS J. GREEN (to 30.8.54) MRS. L. J. JENKINS (a) (b) (from 1.9.54)
TUBERCULOSIS VISITORS	MISS D. PETTY (b) MISS G. S. GEDRYCH (a) (b) (d) (part-time)

MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES Miss I. CALLUM (a)
 Mrs. E. DODSON (a)
 Miss F. FORGHAM (a) (b)
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 Mrs. B. PEREGRINE (a) (b)
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 Mrs. G. S. POINTON (a) (b)
 Mrs. J. M. SKELTON (a) (b)

DISTRICT NURSES Mr. C. ANSELL (b)
 Miss M. E. ARMITAGE (a) (b) (g)
 (full-time to 30.9.54)
 (part-time from 1.10.54)
 Mrs. E. BATES (a) (b)
 (part-time to 26.9.54)
 (full-time from 27.9.54)
 Miss E. W. DOWNING (a) (part-time)
 Miss E. HEAP (h) (part-time)
 Mr. D. E. JENKINS (b)
 Mrs. J. MARTIN (b) (part-time)
 Miss A. WIGGINS (b) (i) (part-time)

- (a) State Certified Midwife.
- (b) State Registered Nurse.
- (c) Health Visitor's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (d) State Registered Fever Nurse.
- (e) Royal Medical Psychological Association—Certificate.
- (f) Diploma Nursing.
- (g) Queen's Institute District Nurse.
- (h) State Enrolled Assistant Nurse.
- (i) National Hospital Masseuse's Certificate.

MENTAL HEALTH:

W. D. FODEN, D.P.A., Duly Authorised Officer
 A. SHAW, Duly Authorised Officer (part-time)
 Miss I. SIDDALL, Mental Health Officer
 W. S. TERRY, Psychiatric Social Worker (part-time)
 Mrs. C. COE, Occupation Centre Supervisor
 Miss M. CREMIN, Assistant Occupation Centre Supervisor

HOME HELP SERVICE:

Mrs. J. M. DAY, Home Help Organiser.

WELFARE SERVICES:

R. F. BAKER, Welfare Officer
 Mr. and Mrs. C. PLANT, Joint Wardens, "Beech Holme," Home for Elderly Men
 Mr. and Mrs. G. F. SMITH, Joint Wardens, "Lyndon House," Home for Elderly Men and Women
 Miss F. M. WYATT, Warden, "The Hawthorns," Home for Elderly Ladies

ADMINISTRATIVE:

A. SHAW, Chief Clerk
 S. STOKES, Senior Clerk, Sanitary Department
 K. J. HICKINBOTTOM, Senior Clerk
 Miss M. E. PRICHARD, Medical Officer's Secretary
 Mrs. E. HALE, Chief Sanitary Inspector's Secretary
 One Senior Female Clerk
 One Shorthand Typist
 Four Clerk/Typists
 Three Clerks—General Division

*To Her Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
County Borough of West Bromwich.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is my first Annual Report and is compiled in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 28/54.

PART I. HEALTH SERVICES

Vital Statistics

The figures recorded in 1954 are generally satisfactory. The birth rate was at much the same level as in 1953, 17.1 per thousand, but the death rate, 9.5 per thousand, was the lowest yet reported. No mother died as a result of childbirth. However, a disquieting feature of the statistics was that 56 babies died within their first year of life — 43 of them living less than one month and 37 less than one week. The infant mortality rate in West Bromwich has been higher than the national average for many years, and it is disappointing to see the rate take a sharp upward course after the more satisfactory figures of recent years.

Seventeen of the deaths were attributed to prematurity, and although less than 10% of all births were of premature infants, that is of infants who weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less, more than 30% of all infant deaths in the first month of life were associated with this condition. In the section on child welfare I have analysed the fate of premature children. Those weighing 3 lbs. 4 ozs. or less had a poor chance of survival, but the majority of those weighing 3 lbs. 5 ozs. or more lived, and it is particularly gratifying to see that all eight infants who weighed between 3 lbs. 5 ozs. and 5lbs. and who were born at home, survived. Prematurity also accounted for a relatively high proportion of still-births. Fifteen of the 32 still-births in 1954 were in premature infants.

The prevention of prematurity, as far as possible, and the care of these infants is of great importance to the survival of the nation when the birth rate is relatively low, and it is hoped that the Health Department and the Premature Baby Unit at Hallam Hospital, which was opened in September, 1952, will be able to work together even more closely in 1955.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(1) General

1954 was a relatively quiet year for infectious diseases. No case of diphtheria was reported, and the 52 cases of scarlet fever notified (49 of which were in children aged less than 10 years) had few complications. One case of typhoid fever and one case of

paratyphoid fever were reported. The sources of infection were not discovered, but it was noted that the man suffering from typhoid infection had only recently arrived in this country from India. Six cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were notified, but no deaths resulted.

Measles was more prevalent during the year, showing its biennial rise, and affected mainly children aged less than six years. Notifications of whooping cough have risen in recent years from 221 in 1949 to 455 in 1953. In 1954 the figure dropped to 124, and although ten of the children affected were aged less than one year, no death from the disease was reported.

In the body of the report are descriptions of an influenzal-like illness affecting a large proportion of children, aged 5—10 years, in local authority schools, from late March to mid-May, and of an outbreak in September of gastro-intestinal illness, which followed the consumption of a meal prepared at a School Meals Centre. In neither instance was the cause of the illness definitely established, but the first outbreak was believed to be caused by a virus, and the second to contamination of meat eaten by most of the victims.

(2) Tuberculosis

Our failure to prevent tuberculosis stands out in relief against our success in stemming other infectious diseases. In 1938, at the end of several years of mass unemployment and poor standards of nutrition in this country, 106 cases of tuberculosis (88 pulmonary and 18 non-pulmonary) and 60 deaths were reported in West Bromwich. In 1954, no fewer than 150 cases (136 pulmonary and 14 non-pulmonary) and 35 deaths were recorded, the incidence being considerably higher than, and the death rate more than twice, the average for England and Wales. The total of notifications equalled that in 1951, which is the highest figure reported since 1949, and the total of deaths is the highest since 1951. Nearly half of the total of male patients notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 70% of the females notified were persons aged from 15 to 44 years, the principal productive years of life.

Dr. Cole points out in his report that the treatment of this disease has become far more effective in recent years, but prolongation of life means that an increasing number of persons in the community are exposed to tuberculous infection.

A scheme of B.C.G. vaccination for older school children was prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 22/53, and the preliminary skin testing of children was undertaken at the beginning of the summer term 1955. It showed that although less than a quarter of the children had been in contact with tuberculosis infection at the age of 12 years, about one-third had been so in the 13 year old age group. These relatively high rates of Mantoux

conversion in West Bromwich mean that the importance of protecting school children in a community, where this infection is widespread, cannot be over-estimated.

We should not, however, blind ourselves to the fact that our basic task in combating this disease is the prevention of infection by better standards of housing and nutrition, and more intensive follow-up of contacts of notified cases, as well as the more limited role which mass miniature radiography can play. Later in 1955 it is hoped that a unit, to which general practitioners can refer cases, will visit the town for one day in every fortnight, and a second unit will spend one week in every three months in selected areas of the town in order that people living in them can have the opportunity of a chest x-ray. There is no doubt that there is still an extensive reservoir of infection in the community, because of those persons discovered to be suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, three were reported posthumously and seven within one month of death.

Nursing Services

The domiciliary midwifery service had an active year although, in common with other towns, the proportion of babies born at home has steadily declined since 1948. In 1948 nearly 55% of babies were born at home compared with less than 40% in hospital, while in 1954 the position had been almost completely reversed, 55% being born in hospital and less than 45% at home. It is the policy of the service to ensure a hundred per cent availability, if indicated, of gas and air analgesia, and nearly 67% of the mothers received it in 1954. Pethidine was given in more than one-half of the cases in which a midwife was acting on her own responsibility.

The health visitors paid more visits in 1954 than in the previous year. As usual most were to children aged less than five years, but an increasing number of visits was made as a preliminary assessment of priority in housing cases, and reports on the degree of urgency of admission of old persons to the wards for chronic sick at Hallam Hospital.

One of the features of the Health Services in the town since 1948, and particularly since October, 1951, has been the development of the Home Nursing Service. In 1949 a total of just over 450 patients were nursed and less than 14,000 visits paid: by 1954 the number of patients nursed during the year had reached a total of 807 and the visits paid totalled 30,352. Most conditions treated were medical, and it should be noted that 49 patients suffering from tuberculosis were nursed and treated at home, entailing a total of 1,666 visits. While nearly 18,000 of the total number of visits were made to patients over 65 years of age, only 82 were made to children aged less than five years. These figures are strikingly different from the health visitors' records and, incidentally, a tribute to the effectiveness of their work in preventing disease. I should like to draw your attention to the importance of providing adequate transport facilities for Home Nurses, who may be required to visit patients at any hour and in all weathers.

Welfare Foods

At the end of June the responsibility for the distribution of welfare foods passed from the Food Office to the Health Department. Although a comparison of the figures, provided by local health authorities generally for the six months ended 31st December, with those provided earlier by the Ministry of Food, shows a falling off in the consumption since 1st July, 1954, of all classes of welfare foods, the transfer does not seem to have had much effect in West Bromwich. Consumption of National Dried Milk has dropped slightly, but since proprietary brands are sold at clinics it is difficult to assess the significance of this trend. The sales of dried milk of all kinds reflect our success or failure in promoting breast feeding, and are therefore of some importance. From the records available, the sales of cod liver oil and orange juice were, respectively, less than one-seventh and less than one-quarter of the theoretical total if all persons entitled to these vitamin supplements had taken them up.

Vaccination and Immunisation

I am sorry to report that the percentage of infants vaccinated against smallpox in West Bromwich fell from 17.3% in 1953 to 16.0% in 1954. These are disturbing facts when one knows that the figures are less than one-half of the average for England and Wales, which the Minister of Health regards as inadequate. It is some years since cases of smallpox occurred in a neighbouring district, but the influx of workers from Asia in the Birmingham region, and in the latter part of the year into West Bromwich, makes it imperative that every effort is made to increase the acceptance rate for this necessary procedure.

Although the national notifications of cases of diphtheria have declined sharply in recent years, Staffordshire has remained an area where the disease, particularly the Gravis type, has remained a public health problem. Since the beginning of 1949 there have been 19 cases of the disease and three deaths in West Bromwich, and although there was no clinical case of diphtheria in the town in 1954, the overall figures of diphtheria immunisation are not at all satisfactory.

At the time of writing this report, measures are being considered to increase the acceptance rate for vaccination and immunisation, both against diphtheria and whooping cough, which remains a prevalent though relatively mild disease. Immunisation against whooping cough was first made generally available at infant welfare clinic sessions in July, 1954.

Mental Health

(a) MENTAL TREATMENT

I am pleased to report that, as in previous years, more than half the total number of patients admitted to mental hospitals did so as voluntary patients, and that the number of patients certified

on admission in 1954 was only about one-third of the total in 1951. Increasing use was made of 3, 7 and 14 day Orders, and an analysis of these cases in the section on mental illness in the report shows that in only a small proportion of cases was it eventually necessary to resort to certification.

Much comment has been made in recent years on the allegedly unnecessary certification of old persons, but the classification of types of admission of persons aged more than 60 years in West Bromwich shows that in 1954 only one in four was, in fact, certified.

(b) MENTAL DEFICIENCY

The outstanding event in the field of mental health was the official opening of the Occupation Centre by Dr. R. H. H. Jolly, M.D., D.P.H., at the "Open Day" held on May 10th, 1954. The number of backward children attending was increased during the year to 30, and excellent results have already been achieved. An active Parents' Association has been formed. There is no doubt that this centre meets a much desired need, and it is hoped that during 1955 it will be possible to increase the total child attendance to 40.

Ambulance Service

The calls on the Ambulance Service have continued to grow, and the totals of patients carried and mileage covered in 1954 were the highest yet recorded. I feel that the peak of the demand has not yet been reached because of the development of housing estates in the peripheral parts of the borough, and of the further increase in hospital out-patient services.

I am not convinced that the case for the installation of radio-communication is clear cut at the moment, but feel that the possible improvement in this efficient service and the likely reduction in total mileage which might result from the introduction of this system, should be kept closely under observation.

Home Help Service

Despite difficulties encountered in obtaining and retaining suitable persons for this work in an area of full employment and high wages, excellent results continue to be achieved by this service. The type of work carried out has changed considerably since 1951. In that year there were less than three aged and chronic sick persons helped for every one maternity case, but in 1954 this ratio had increased to more than five to one. In 1951 nearly 15% of the time was spent on maternity cases and 76% on chronic patients. In 1954 the time spent on maternity cases had dropped to less than 6%, while that of the chronic cases had increased to 85%. Nearly one-third of all the patients assisted received help throughout the year, and there is no doubt that in many cases the aid given relieved what would otherwise have become an intolerable domestic burden.

Housing and Health

The detailed report on the 1951 census has recently become available and it is interesting to consider the part that housing conditions play in the health, and especially the mental health, of the people of West Bromwich. Although the percentage of persons living at a density of more than two per room (4.6%) was little more than one-third of that at the time of the 1931 census, it is still high for the Staffordshire area as a whole. Only about half of the householders in the town have the exclusive use of a piped water supply, cooking stove, kitchen sink, water closet and fixed bath. Nearly one householder in five either shared or was entirely without a sink or water closet. Nearly one-quarter of the householders (23.8%) shared dwellings. Some explanation for the magnitude of the housing list in recent years can be found by the fact that 509 out of every 1,000 women aged 20—24 years were married, compared with a rate of 280 per thousand in 1931. The recent decision to go ahead with slum clearance on a large scale and to set aside at least half of the total of dwellings built in the next few years, for the housing of occupants of unfit property, must mean that young married couples with children have little chance of being housed in the foreseeable future.

238 applicants on the housing list approached or were referred to the Health Department during the year for consideration of priority on medical grounds for accommodation. 37 cases were submitted to the Housing Committee at the request of the Medical Officer of Health, and it was decided to rehouse 27 of these families. Each of the cases considered by the Health Department was visited and reported upon by a Health Visitor, and all the cases taken to Committee were visited personally by the Medical Officer of Health or the Senior Assistant Medical Officer.

Problem Families

During the year regular meetings were held of a Co-ordinating Committee of Officers, which was set up in December, 1953. In the body of the report will be found an analysis of 48 of the 54 families considered during the year. Although more than one-third of the families had six or more children, and one-fifth had eight or nine, excessive family size is only a part of the overall picture because it must be remembered that a further one-third had three or fewer children with which to cope. The absence of one or both parents, physical and mental ill-health, backwardness, defects of character, breakdown of moral standards, and housing difficulties, played various roles in the eventual condition. Attempts to recruit voluntary workers for visiting problem families failed, but early in 1955 the Health Committee decided, in response to Ministry of Health Circular 27/54 on the "Prevention of Break-up of Families," to second a selected Home Help to assist one or more of these families.

PART II. WELFARE SERVICES

There are nearly 8,000 persons aged 65 and over in West Bromwich. Between the ages of 65 and 70, the proportion of males to females is two to three, but the increased expectancy of life experienced by women results in the fact that in persons aged 90 and over, the proportion is nearly one to five. Many of the elderly people are widowed and, in fact, at the time of the 1951 census there were more than 2,000 widows and nearly 850 widowers aged more than 65 years living in the borough. Many elderly persons are supported in varying degrees by relatives living in the neighbourhood, in particular by unmarried daughters. Our main aim as a welfare authority must be to preserve the independence of old people as long as possible, and one of the most worthwhile ways of doing this is to lighten the burden of other members of the family. In the part of the introductory letter devoted to Health Services, I mentioned the high proportion of aged or chronically sick persons assisted by the Home Help Service, and it will be seen in the report on the Home Nursing Service that more than half of the total number of visits was to patients aged more than 65 years. The total number of old persons will grow, and the amount of residential accommodation which can be provided for them is not limitless. Measures to prevent the onset of senility should be encouraged, and in the early part of 1955 the Welfare Services Committee began to consider the possibility of instituting an employment scheme for the elderly.

Residential Accommodation

During 1954 the extension to "The Hawthorns" was completed, and the total of elderly persons who can be accommodated in the three Homes in the borough increased by 10 to a total of 57.

In addition, 25 places are available at "The Poplars," New Cross, Wolverhampton. The quality of this accommodation cannot match that of a specially adapted Home, but it has served an invaluable purpose since 1948, particularly because the authorities at Wolverhampton have been prepared to take persons at short notice, and to make the total of West Bromwich residents accommodated a flexible one.

Handicapped Persons

During the year a register of physically handicapped persons was compiled, and fairly regular visiting was carried out by the Welfare Officer. Some of these people, many of whom are aged more than 45 years, were unknown to other agencies in the town and would benefit greatly if some form of sheltered workshop could be set up.

Co-operation with Voluntary Organisations

Since 1952 a "Meals on Wheels" service has been organised by the West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee, to which the Council has made a grant under Section 31 of the National Assistance Act. During 1954 the Committee found itself in difficulties in continuing the service and its operation had to be suspended for a period. In February, 1955, it was finally found to be impossible to continue, but I am glad to report that in July, 1955, the Women's Voluntary Service agreed to take over the service as from the 1st October, 1955.

The West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee continues to provide three other worthwhile services. Firstly, a Chiropodist attends Highfields Clinic once a week and Stone Cross Clinic every fourth week and, secondly, through the South Staffordshire Council of Social Service, to which it is affiliated, approximately 200 old people were sent for a week's holiday to Rhyl, Weston-super-Mare and Morecambe in 1954. The old persons, who travelled by coach to these resorts, had made contributions weekly to the cost of the holiday at the eight clubs which the Committee has organised in the town, and were helped financially by the Committee when necessary. The third service is a limited system of visiting, in which old persons are given assistance in the home when required.

In January, 1954, an Association for the Welfare of Physically Handicapped Persons in the South Staffordshire area was formed, and, at a meeting held in the Town Hall, West Bromwich, on 1st September, of members of the local authority and voluntary organisations, it was decided to set up a local committee. The Council agreed to the appointment of the Chief Welfare Officer as its representative. The immediate objects of this committee are the establishment of a comprehensive service of visiting, in which handicapped persons are informed of the facilities available to them, and the prevention, as far as possible, of the activities of physically handicapped people becoming confined to their own homes.

Welfare of Coloured Persons

During 1954 it became increasingly obvious that there was a substantial population of coloured persons in the town, and a survey of the position carried out in June, 1955, disclosed that there were about 450 coloured persons resident in West Bromwich. Nearly 200 of these people, often in family groups, came from the West Indies, and more than 250, mainly men, from India or Pakistan.

The customs of these people are very different from those of the English people, and the language barrier also provides a difficulty. A considerable degree of overcrowding was apparent in some houses occupied by coloured persons, in the early part of 1955, but this has now been largely overcome. A further problem was the occurrence of

cases of tuberculosis amongst these residents, and with the co-operation of those among them who could speak English, it was possible to arrange for the x-ray of contacts at the Chest Clinic. It is hoped that in time it will be possible to assimilate these people into our community.

Towards the end of 1954 the resignation of Dr. G. M. Fleming was announced, and I know he would wish to join me in expressing thanks for the co-operation the Medical Officer of Health and his staff receive from members of the Council, officers of other Corporation Departments, and medical practitioners in the borough. To the staff of the Health Department and, in particular, to Dr. Lindop, is due my grateful acknowledgement for the way they have kept the work running smoothly between the departure of Dr. Fleming and my arrival.

The completion of an Annual Report is the result of teamwork. Although I could mention the names of individual members of the staff of the Health Department, justice would not then be done to those people who patiently record the figures which form the basis for the survey of the health of West Bromwich each year.

I have the pleasure of signing the Report for 1954.

Yours faithfully,

J. F. SKONE,
Medical Officer of Health
& *Chief Welfare Officer.*

Public Health Department,
2, Lodge Road,
West Bromwich.

30th August, 1955.

VITAL STATISTICS

GENERAL

AREA OF COUNTY BOROUGH (Acres)	7,172
POPULATION (estimated mid-year 1954)	88,650

The adult male population of this country can be classified for statistical purposes into five main occupation groups. The numbers in each group in every thousand of this population in West Bromwich compared with the average for England and Wales as a whole are as follows:—

		Census, 1951	
		West Bromwich	England and Wales
Professional occupations	...	18	38
Intermediate occupations	...	114	150
Skilled occupations	... ..	555	527
Partly skilled occupations	...	171	162
Unskilled occupations	...	142	128

NO. OF INHABITED HOUSES (according to rate books 31st December, 1954)	25,282
RATEABLE VALUE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH (31st December, 1954)	£479,723
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (1954-1955) ...	£1,880

Year	National Health Service Act, 1946		National Assistance Act, 1948		Other Health Services	
	Gross Cost	Net Cost	Gross Cost	Net Cost	Gross Cost	Net Cost
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1948-49	25,520	11,974	12,435	8,357	52,066	45,029
1949-50	39,263	17,706	18,164	12,277	50,334	43,995
1950-51	48,913	21,768	16,740	11,192	54,062	48,212
1951-52	53,817	21,977	18,708	13,517	62,567	52,204
1952-53	60,493	26,398	23,936	16,114	66,993	60,007
1953-54	61,911	27,794	24,479	15,693	71,418	66,048
1954-55	64,535	29,777	28,781	19,449	70,082	66,150

BIRTHS

Live

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	776	685	1,461
Illegitimate	...	27	24	51
Total				1,512

Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 17.1.

Still

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	21	10	31
Illegitimate	...	—	1	1
			Total	32

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births=20.7.

DEATHS

All Causes

Male	Female	Total
482	357	839

Death Rate per 1,000 population=9.5.

This rate is the lowest yet recorded and compares with a rate of 11.3 for England and Wales.

DEATHS DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS

Principal Causes of Deaths

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Cancer ...	173	138	145	127	151	154	165	128	149	132
Heart Diseases ...	143	161	208	184	198	256	275	199	211	221
Pneumonia ...	39	40	66	41	49	46	43	33	32	24
Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases ...	95	90	115	81	113	69	96	82	107	84
Vascular lesions ...	105	99	98	73	112	113	103	113	121	97
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ...	54	57	59	63	66	50	39	27	27	32
Non-Pulmonary	8	9	10	10	10	3	6	4	6	3

Deaths from Violent Causes

There were 36 deaths from violent causes, six from suicide, six as a result of road accidents and 24 others.

Maternal Mortality

Rate per 1,000 births (live and still) ... nil

Infant Mortality

No of deaths of infants under 1 year	...	57
Rate per 1,000 relevant live births	=	37
Legitimate rate per 1,000 relevant live births		35.6
Illegitimate rate per 1,000 relevant live births		78.4

INFANT DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS FOR 10 YEARS
1945 — 1954

Year	Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total	Infant Death Rate
1945	34	13	20	8	5	80	52
1946	38	15	17	10	6	86	50
1947	37	17	20	16	6	96	55
1948	38	18	23	8	2	89	53
1949	31	19	24	6	3	83	49
1950	22	9	6	7	3	47	30
1951	23	7	9	3	3	45	30
1952	31	9	7	5	2	54	36
1953	22	9	7	6	1	45	30
1954	43	3	6	2	2	56	37

INFANT DEATHS, 1954 — CAUSES OF DEATH

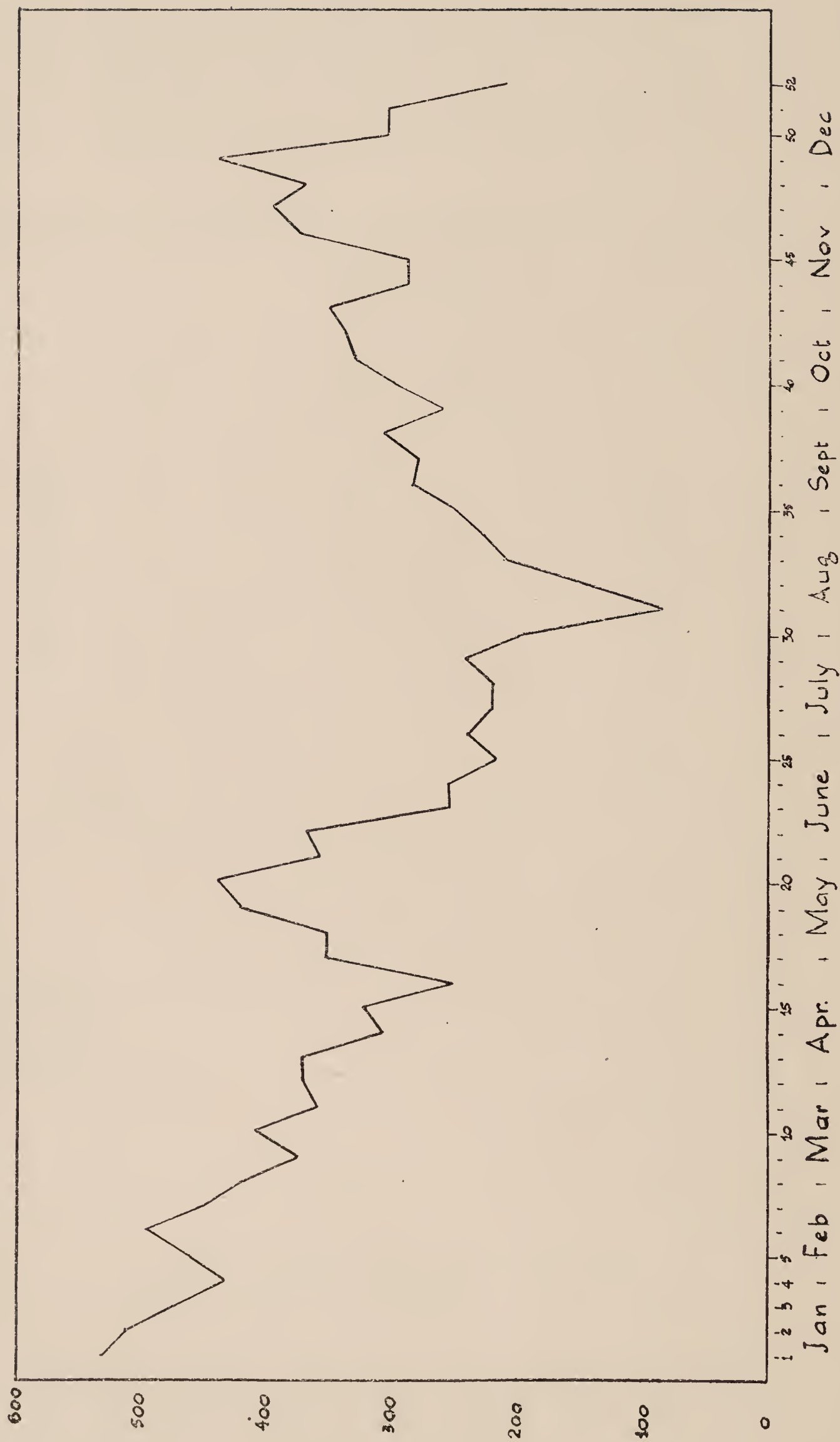
	Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	17	—	—	—	—	17
Congenital malformations	12	—	2	—	—	14
Birth injury	7	—	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia	1	1	—	1	—	3
Asphyxia	1	1	1	—	—	3
Other causes	5	1	3	1	2	12
Totals	43	3	6	2	2	56

NEO-NATAL DEATHS IN 1954

WHEN DEATH OCCURRED

										Deaths
1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day	5th day	6th day	7th day	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	under 1 month
23	5	2	4	1	2	—	3	3	—	43

Number of New Claims for Sickness Benefit per Week (Ministry of National Insurance Returns)



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

The incidence of notifiable diseases is shown in the following table :—

Disease	Number of cases notified	
	1953	1954
Whooping cough	455	124
Measles	373	570
Scarlet fever	77	52
Dysentery	10	26
Pneumonia	9	7
Diphtheria	7	—
Meningococcal infection ...	5	7
Food poisoning	4	1
Poliomyelitis	3	6
Erysipelas	2	2
Puerperal pyrexia	11	10
Typhoid Fever	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	1

Scarlet Fever

Fifty-two cases were notified during the year, 49 being children aged less than 10 years. Fifteen persons were admitted to hospital mainly because conditions were unsuitable for home nursing. 80% of the cases occurred during the first and fourth quarters of the year. The type of case notified was mild, the incidence of complications very low, and there was no death from the disease.

Diphtheria

The incidence of diphtheria in West Bromwich has declined, although not so dramatically as in other areas, and I am glad to report that there was no case of the disease in the Borough in 1954.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever

In April, 1954, a man recently arrived from India developed typhoid fever, the organism being *S. typhi* Vi, phage type A. He made a satisfactory recovery. No further case occurred and investigation of contacts was negative.

One case of paratyphoid fever, due to salmonella paratyphoid B. phage type I., occurred in May, 1954. The patient made a satisfactory recovery. No other case occurred and it was not possible to trace the origin of the infection.

Poliomyelitis

Six cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were notified during the year, five being children under 10 years. There was no case amongst contacts though in one instance an elder sister had the disease some two years before the younger child was affected. Both children have a serious degree of residual disability.

Meningococcal Meningitis and Septicaemia

Notifications were received of seven cases, four concerning children under two years of age. There was one death — a child of nearly three years who died from a fulminating meningococcal septicaemia.

Measles

The incidence of measles showed the usual biennial rise and notifications were received of 570 cases in 1954 as compared with 373 and 644 in 1953 and 1952 respectively. Seventeen of these were in children under the age of one year. The majority of cases were between three and six years of age. Two cases occurred in children over the age of ten years. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough

There was a welcome reduction in the incidence of whooping cough in 1954. 124 cases were notified, thirteen under the age of one year. This follows a steady rise in notifications from 1949 until 1953 of 221 to 455. There were no deaths but ten of the cases were under the age of one year, an age group when both mortality and the frequency of sequelæ, such as bronchiectasis, are most common.

Influenzal Illness

From the end of March until mid-May, 1954, there was a widespread epidemic of an influenzal-like illness in the area. Children between the ages of five and ten were mainly affected, and school attendance rates showed a marked reduction. During the period 26.3.54 to 28.5.54 approximately 40% of children were away from school for a period of one or more days. Adults appeared to be affected to a less marked degree for, although many of the school children gave a history of illness in a parent or older brother or sister, the weekly returns of first claims from the Ministry of National Insurance showed only a small rise in numbers. It is doubtful, however, if these returns are of much value in estimating the morbidity rate of a relatively mild illness in the adult population, and it is most probable that the disease was more widespread than available statistics indicate.

On the whole the clinical illness as affecting children lasted two to four days. Three children, more severely affected, were admitted to hospital. The frequency of the main symptoms and signs were as follows :—

Headache	...	...	...	80%
Coryza	...	...	...	60%
Myalgia	...	...	...	50%
Eye ache	...	...	...	40%
Vertigo	...	...	...	40%
Nausea	...	...	...	40%
Epistaxis	...	...	...	25%
Abdominal pain	...	...	...	20%
Vomiting	...	...	...	20%
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	10%

Four out of every five of the persons affected recovered within a week, and the family doctor was consulted in only about half the cases. There was a history of illness in other members of the family in 65% of cases.

The illness presented two clinical types with considerable variation. Some children complained mainly of headache, vertigo and vomiting and there was little or no coryza. In others, coryza, epistaxis and myalgia were most obvious. This difference, though interesting, is probably of no significance other than an example of the difficulties of clinical diagnosis presented in this type of infection.

The disease was almost certainly of virus origin though its exact aetiology is unknown. Laboratory examination of nasal washings and sera was undertaken in eight cases. One case showed a rising titre suggestive of influenza virus B. infection, though the rise was less than is usually accepted as satisfactory evidence of such an illness.

Dysentery and Enteritis

As far as can be ascertained from records and notifications, the incidence of enteritis due to *Shigella* infections remained at a low level during the year. *Shigella Sonne* was isolated on seven occasions, the cases occurring in a small localised outbreak during May and June. *Salmonella* infection, predominantly affecting children, occurred slightly more frequently throughout the year. In nine cases the organism proved to be *S. typhi murium* and in one case *S. Heidelberg*. The associated illness was usually mild though in one case it was a contributing cause to death.

There was one case of amoebic dysentery. The patient, an ex-service man, contracted the disease whilst in Egypt. He made a satisfactory recovery following treatment.

In eight further cases notified as dysentery no organism was isolated.

Outbreak of Food Poisoning

A substantial but fortunately short local outbreak of food poisoning occurred in September, 1954, and appeared to be caused by food prepared at the Charlemont School Meals Centre. Meals from this Centre are supplied to six schools and an Occupation Centre, and some 750 meals a day are served. Forty children and members of the staff were taken ill in the late afternoon and evening of Thursday, 23rd September. Most of the victims had eaten a meal in the canteen, adjoining the kitchen of the Centre, but other persons affected were scattered about in the remaining schools supplied by the same kitchen. The picture was a little obscured by the fact that four of the school children and a teacher, who did not have a school meal, complained of similar symptoms.

(a) CHARACTER OF THE ILLNESS

In its pattern the illness resembled that due to a staphylococcal poisoning in that it was a short, sharp attack of sudden onset and lasted only a few hours. The interval between the ingestion of the meal and the onset of the illness varied, however, from four to as long as twelve hours, and is a much longer period than is usual in Staphylococcal intoxication. The principal symptom was a few vomited; but most of those affected recovered sufficiently by next morning to enjoy their breakfast.

(b) COMPOSITION OF MEAL

The meal on the day in question consisted of cold boiled beef, potato with margarine squares, salad and mayonnaise. This was followed by apricot crumble and custard. The meat was cooked on the day before it was consumed, and consisted of ten pieces, each approximately 12 lbs. in weight. The mayonnaise was also prepared on the previous day, but all the other ingredients of the meal were cooked or prepared on the day it was eaten.

(c) INVESTIGATIONS

Samples of the complete meal served on September 23rd, as well as that of the previous day, were available and were sent to the Public Health Laboratory in Birmingham for investigation. No pathogenic organism was found in either sample. Stools were obtained from four of the victims with more severe symptoms, but

again no pathogen was discovered. The kitchen staff were examined as to the condition of their hands and of their ears, nose and throat, which appeared healthy. None of them gave any history of recent gastro-intestinal upset.

The kitchen is of good lay-out, of fairly modern construction, and the standard of hygiene and of general management is of a high order.

Swabs were taken from all the food handlers. No coagulase positive staphylococcus was isolated but four of the staff were found to be harbouring B. Haemolytic streptococci in their throats. This was evidently a temporary condition and three of those affected were later shown to be free from the infection.

(d) CONCLUSION

It seems that this outbreak was probably due to contamination of the meat, which was cooked on the previous day and eaten cold. The total weight was about 120 lbs. and it possibly experienced a certain amount of handling between the time it was cooked and when it was finally placed in the refrigerator. This is, however, pure surmise, and is not supported by any bacteriological evidence.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Details of the returns of cases of venereal disease from West Bromwich treated at the General Hospital, Birmingham, and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, are given below :—

			Birmingham	Dudley	Total
Syphilis	...	...	3	1	4
Gonorrhoea	...	...	13	3	16
Conditions other than venereal			46	19	65
Total cases	...		62	23	85

			1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Syphilis	...	...	5	11	13	8	4
Gonorrhoea	...	...	11	18	34	14	16
Others	...	...	81	61	72	68	65
Total	...	...	97	90	119	90	85

TUBERCULOSIS

Report by Dr. C. W. D. Cole, M.R.L.S., L.R.C.P.,
Chest Physician

Rate of Incidence of Tuberculosis (Primary Notifications)

Year	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Rate per Thousand		
				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1938	88	18	106	1.06	0.22	1.28
1939	87	21	108	1.05	0.25	1.30
1940	184	6	190	2.23	0.07	2.30
1941	118	18	136	1.30	0.15	1.45
1942	139	14	153	1.77	0.18	1.95
1943	156	18	174	1.99	0.23	2.22
1944	160	11	171	2.04	0.14	2.18
1945	154	13	167	1.91	0.16	2.07
1946	150	11	161	1.81	0.13	1.94
1947	111	9	120	1.32	0.11	1.43
1948	149	21	170	1.73	0.24	1.97
1949	190	13	203	2.19	0.15	2.34
1950	122	16	138	1.40	0.18	1.58
1951	144	6	150	1.65	0.07	1.72
1952	124	18	142	1.37	0.20	1.57
1953	118	16	134	1.31	0.11	1.42
1954	136	14	150	1.53	0.16	1.69

Comparative Table of Deaths and Death Rate

Year	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Rate per Thousand		
				Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1938	53	10	63	0.64	0.12	0.76
1939	56	11	67	0.68	0.13	0.81
1940	75	12	87	0.91	0.14	1.05
1941	75	7	82	0.95	0.09	1.04
1942	65	11	76	0.81	0.14	0.95
1943	64	7	71	0.80	0.09	0.89
1944	54	11	65	0.69	0.14	0.83
1945	54	8	62	0.68	0.10	0.78
1946	57	9	66	0.69	0.11	0.80
1947	59	10	69	0.70	0.12	0.82
1948	63	10	73	0.73	0.12	0.85
1949	66	10	76	0.76	0.12	0.88
1950	50	3	53	0.52	0.03	0.55
1951	39	4	43	0.44	0.04	0.48
1952	29	3	32	0.32	0.03	0.35
1953	27	6	33	0.30	0.06	0.36
1954	32	3	35	0.36	0.03	0.39

Staff

The staff engaged in carrying out the duties of the local health authority with regard to tuberculosis under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are :—

Dr. C. W. D. Cole :
Chest Physician to the
Birmingham Regional
Hospital Board.
Two Tuberculosis
Health Visitors.

Proportion of whole-
time — 2/11ths.

Whole-time.

The details of cases notified and deaths from tuberculosis, in 1954, are as follows :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
1—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
2—4	6	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—9	7	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—14	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19	8	8	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—24	5	9	2	3	—	2	—	1
25—34	13	12	—	2	1	2	—	1
35—44	6	7	—	1	3	5	—	—
45—54	18	2	—	1	10	—	—	—
55—64	5	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 & over	9	1	—	—	5	—	—	—
Totals	82	54	4	10	22	10	1	2

Morbidity

The number of new cases notified was 150, consisting of 136 patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, including 28 children, and 14 patients suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. This total is, with that in 1950, the highest figure recorded.

Although notifications for non-pulmonary tuberculosis are tending to decline, those for the respiratory form of the disease are increasing.

These statistics may be partly explained by improved case-findings and contact tracing, but it is disquieting to note that, of the respiratory cases, three were notified posthumously and seven died within a month of notification.

Mortality

There was a total of 35 deaths in 1954, 32 being in patients suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, and three in patients suffering from the non-respiratory form of the disease. This total represents an increase of three and two respectively over the figures for 1952 and 1953.

B.C.G. Vaccination

557 older school children at Cronehills Secondary Technical School and Charlemont Secondary Modern Girls School were offered B.C.G. vaccination during the summer term 1955, and 489 parents accepted. It is very interesting to record the different percentages of positive reactors seen in boys and girls of 12 and 13 years of age at Cronehills Secondary Technical School:—

			12 years of age	13 years of age
Males	...	...	25.6	32.2
Females	...	...	22.9	33.3

The overall percentage of positives at Cronehills Secondary Technical School was 25.5 and at Charlemont Secondary Modern Girls School 26.9.

Two hundred children were vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine at Cronehills Secondary Technical School and 139 at Charlemont Secondary Modern Girls School. A glandular abscess developed as a complication in only one case.

Health Visiting, Social and Preventive Work

The tuberculosis health visitors have called on every case of newly notified case of tuberculosis, and made a total of 2,570 domiciliary visits during the year. A total of 380 contacts were examined as a result of these visits. This figure of 2.54 contacts, for every notified case attending the clinic and being x-rayed, is not high enough if we are ever to obtain complete control of respiratory tuberculosis. Obviously, close contacts at work and play should also be examined in addition to those persons residing at the same address as the case. This ideal is very rarely possible of achievement. The reasons for this are manifold; the main one, I think, being the reluctance of the patient to permit details of the nature of his illness to be made available to his employer and work mates. It is here, I feel, that the industrial nurse could be, and so rarely is, of great value. A single case did occur in this town during 1954 where a firm co-operated with the clinic, and some twenty people at the firm were x-rayed as contacts of an open case. Four of these contacts are still kept under observation and an unexpected chronic case of tuberculosis was discovered amongst them.

Once again I have to express my appreciation of the work done by the Housing Committee and the Housing Manager for West Bromwich, during the year 1954. The Committee has listened sympathetically to every case put before it by the staff of the clinic. Whilst they have not been able to help in every case, they have done wonderfully well, and I feel that it is greatly to their credit that the number of contacts developing tuberculosis after the diagnosis of the primary case during 1954 was only four. Three of these indeed occurred in the family of a man who walked out of hospital against medical advice. As in my report for 1953, I would again bring to notice the plight of the young childless couple, one of whom has tuberculosis. Their chances of being rehoused rapidly are often very small and they tend to set up house and home in one room with either set of parents. This constitutes a potential source of infection to the rest of the house, and leads to newly born children often returning from hospital to most unsatisfactory home conditions. I appreciate that there are not enough houses to go round but it seems to me that very often we do not rehouse a family until the damage has already been done.

During 1954 the After Care Committee, the Ministry of National Insurance, and the National Assistance Board have continued their good work. These three bodies exercised their powers of discretion in a tolerant and humane manner, and I would like to thank the respective heads of these departments for their assistance during the year on behalf of every tuberculous patient and their families.

With the increasing efficacy of treatment, the pool of tuberculosis in a quiescent, arrested or chronic state in the population has increased and will probably continue to increase for some time. This means, in my opinion, that we must redouble our efforts towards its prevention. I would add a plea for still further priority to the housing in suitable surroundings of all cases of tuberculosis, and especially the open ones, as a matter of urgency.

PNEUMOCONIOSIS IN LOCAL INDUSTRY

It will be remembered that in April, 1953, facilities were placed at the disposal of the team which was examining a selected group of foundry workers on behalf of the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers. At this time support was obtained for the view that there should be an arrangement for a more extensive radiography service, using whole size plates on foundry workers.

The West Bromwich Local Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance considered the matter in April, 1954. The West Bromwich Central Branch of the

Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers submitted further evidence at this time, stating that 116 cases were known to have occurred in the area, nine persons were unable to work, and nineteen persons had died.

In February and March, 1955, there was further correspondence with the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and the Ministry of Health on the matter. The Minister felt that the local health authority was fully entitled to encourage the use of the mass miniature radiography unit, but, in his view, the radiography and reading of films was a diagnostic service provided under Part II of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the responsibility, therefore, of the Regional Hospital Board. He felt that the local authority could not take this action under Section 28 of the Act.

The Secretary of the Regional Hospital Board stated that in the Minister's view, an investigation using full size plates was not within the scope of the hospital services provided under the Act, and that the Board was therefore precluded from making the desired arrangements.

A suggestion has been made to the Medical Research Council that it might be interested in carrying out a survey on pneumoconiosis among foundry workers, and it was understood that the problem could be discussed by the Council's Industrial Pulmonary Diseases Committee if the Foundry Workers' Union submitted proposals, together with a statement of the prima facie case which they consider to exist, for further research into the problem.

NURSING HOMES

The following Nursing Homes were on the register at 31st December, 1954 :—

	<i>Registered number of beds</i>
Park House Nursing Home, 59, Beeches Road	16
Sandwell Nursing Home, 9, Birmingham Road	12
Lodge Nursing Home, 59, Lodge Road ...	8

Regular inspections were made by members of the staff of the Health Department of these premises.

CONVALESCENCE

The demands on this valuable service continue to grow. Recuperative holidays were arranged for 96 adults and 10 children during 1954. Most of the patients were accommodated in convalescent homes by the sea.

In addition to convalescent home fees, travelling expenses were paid in respect of 99 patients. The total cost to the Council amounted to £930.

Recommendations:

(a) General practitioners	...	...	96
(b) Hospital patients:—			
(i) Almoners	...	...	9
(ii) Psychiatric Social Worker	...		1
			<hr/>
	Total	...	106
			<hr/>

Age group of patients:

Under 21 years	...	...	...	...	12
21—44	„	...	...	...	32
45—64	„	...	...	...	55
Over 65	„	...	...	...	32
					<hr/>
					106
					<hr/>

Details of Accommodation:

Convalescent Homes	Number accommodated		
	Men	Women	Children under 16 years
“Rest Haven,” Exmouth	26	23	—
“Victoria,” Clevedon	14	—	—
“Belmont,” Clevedon	—	6	—
“West Hill,” Southport	9	1	—
“The Bell Memorial Home,” Lancing	—	8	—
The Llandudno Convalescent Home for Women	—	5	—
“Channel View,” Deal	1	—	—
“Gatley,” Hastings	—	1	—
“The Gables,” Droitwich	1	1	—
Children’s Seaside Home, Exmouth	—	—	5
Sunbeam Home, Lancing-on-Sea	—	—	3
Orchard Dene, Nr. Liverpool	—	—	1
“The Hollies,” Smethwick	—	—	1

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The undermentioned medical examinations were carried out during the year by the medical staff :—

Superannuation Medical Examinations

Number of examinations	...	...	...	73
Accepted	...	...	...	69
Deferred for re-examination	...	...	...	3
Accepted after re-examination	...	...	...	1

Medical examinations for admission to the Corporation's Sickness Scheme:—

Number of examinations	...	...	...	140
Accepted	...	...	...	112
Deferred for re-examination	...	...	...	16
Rejected	...	...	...	2
Accepted after re-examination	...	...	...	10

Ministry of Education medical examinations	...	...	...	39
Medical examinations for pension	...	...	...	4
Special medical	...	...	...	1

DENTAL SERVICE

(For mothers and pre-school children)

Report by D. Halley Goose, B.Sc., L.D.S.

	<i>Examined</i>	<i>Needing Treatment</i>	<i>Treated</i>	<i>Made Dentally Fit</i>
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	38	38	40	32
Children under five years	356	356	353	362

	<i>Scalings and Gum Treatment</i>	<i>Fillings</i>	<i>Silver Nitrate Treatment</i>	<i>Crowns or Inlays</i>	<i>Extractions</i>	<i>General Anaesthetics</i>	<i>Dentures Provided</i>		<i>Radio-graphs</i>
							<i>Full Upper or Lower</i>	<i>Partial Upper or Lower</i>	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	7	8	—	—	145	35	9	9	4
Children under five years ...	—	49	9	—	1038	346	—	—	—

Rather more time was devoted to the inspection and treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five this year than in 1953. This is reflected in the increase in all types of work but notably of dentures for the mothers and fillings for the children : this latter being a desirable feature indicating a slight improvement in the conservation of their teeth.

The anaesthetic apparatus I mentioned in my last report was in use most of the year at Stone Cross Clinic, and proved very satisfactory, and it has saved the patients in that area the considerable travelling time and inconvenience of coming to the central clinic.

Certain improvements have been made in the surgeries this year, including the redecoration of the central clinic, and it is hoped that it will be possible to continue this process of modernisation of our dental clinics, next year.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the following details of the new premises occupied in 1954:—

(1) The number of new houses occupied in West Bromwich from 1st January to 31st December 481

(2) The type of houses, flats and shops included in (1) above:—

Direct Labour Houses

3 bedroom houses	...	...	...	48
3 „ flats	...	...	...	12
				— 60

Traditional Type

3 bedroom houses	...	...	...	241
3 „ „ (Cornish type)	...			12
2 „ „ (Wates type)	...			6
1 „ flats	...	...	...	24
2 „ „	...	...	...	30
2 „ „ (Wates type)	...			6
3 „ „ (Cornish type)	...			12
3 „ „ (Wimpey's)	...			30
1 „ „ (Wimpey's six-storey)	...			24
2 „ „ „	...			36
				— 421
				— 481

238 housing cases were referred to the Medical Officer of Health for assessment on grounds of medical priority during 1954. The cases of 37 families were taken to meetings of the Housing Committee during the year, and in 27 instances it was decided to allocate accommodation to the applicants. Four other families were unsuccessful in obtaining priority when their cases were submitted, but have since been housed under the Council's Points Scheme.

PROBLEM FAMILIES

Since December, 1953, regular meetings of officers have been held in accordance with a Joint Circular issued in 1950 by the Home Office, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, to ensure co-ordination of the social services concerned with children neglected in their own homes. Inevitably problem families have been discussed in detail.

The term "problem family" was not defined, but it was generally accepted that it was a family unit consisting of parents and children, some of whom were not above school age, who tended to be chronically sub-standard in their mode of life. A few cases were discussed which did not fit into this category and which had been brought forward as special cases in connection with housing or school attendance.

The following individuals were represented on the Committee :—

Area Officer, National Assistance Board.

Chief Nursing Officer, Health Department.

Children's Officer.

Director of Education.

Housing Manager.

Medical Officer of Health (Chairman and Co-ordinating Officer).

N.S.P.C.C. Inspector.

Probation Officer.

Town Clerk.

I. Source of reference

Children's Officer	...	...	...	3 cases
Director of Education	...	...	...	12 „
Health Department	...	...	...	14 „
Housing Manager	...	...	...	10 „
National Assistance Board	...	...	...	4 „
N.S.P.C.C.	...	...	...	11 „

In many instances the same family was referred from several sources at about the same time, and then was assigned to the Department which notified it first.

II. Family size

Of the 48 families of which precise information was known as to the number of children, the following table shows the frequency of families of different sizes :—

<i>Children</i>	<i>Families</i>
0	2
1	4
2	5
3	8
4	8
5	3
6	3
7	4
8	6
9	4
10	—
11	1
12	—

In addition to the above, four mothers were pregnant at the time their cases were considered.

From these figures it will be seen that more than a third of the cases had upwards of six children, and 20% of them had eight or nine. That excessive fertility was not the main cause of the plight into which these families had sunk, however, is shown by the fact that one-third of them had no more than three children to care for.

III. Accommodation

West Bromwich Corporation property	36 families
Other property	11 „
Lodgings	2 „
Condemned buildings	5 „

IV. Factors associated with the problem

Characteristics of problem families gleaned from the information reported at meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee have been analysed and set out below. They represent the principal features of the cases in this series as they appeared to the Officers reporting them:—

(1) Absence of one parent through death,
separation, desertion or divorce ... 5 families

(2) Ill-health

(i) Physical

— Husband	3
Wife	3
Other members of family	2
—	8 „

(ii) Severe mental illness	...	...	...	5 families	
(iii) MINOR MENTAL ILL-HEALTH					
REVEALED AS :—					
(a) Instability					
— Husband			5		
Wife			6		
Other members of family			7		
			—	18	„
(b) Quarrelsomeness					
— Husband			5		
Wife			4		
			—	9	„
(c) Alcoholism					
— Husband			1		
Wife			—		
Other member of family			1		
				2	„
(3) Mental backwardness					
— Husband			7		
Wife			10		
Other members of family			3		
			—	20	„
(4) Personality failure revealed as:—					
(i) Workshyness	...	...	...	6	„
(ii) Irresponsible behaviour	...	...	...	16	„
(iii) BAD MANAGEMENT :—					
(a) Household	...	...	...	23	„
(b) Financial	...	...	...	15	„
(c) As to family size	...	...	...	12	„
(5) Moral breakdown					
(i) History of prison sentence					
— Husband			7		
Wife			1		
Other members of family			2		
			—	10	„
(ii) History of other felonious conduct					
— Husband			5		
Wife			—		
Other members of family			9		
			—	14	„
(iii) Prostitution	2	„
(iv) Illegitimacy	2	„
(v) Promiscuity	2	„

(6) Adoption	1 family
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(7) Housing:—

(i) Overcrowding	4 families
(ii) Evicted — no proper home	4	„
(iii) Under threat of eviction	2	„

It will be seen that the above factors are associated with problem families in a general way and cannot be regarded necessarily as the root of the problem. Some are possibly the result of the conditions in which the family finds itself, for often the effect is like a vicious circle. In many instances a number of different factors appear to be operating at the same time.

V. Treatment

At the end of twelve months, 17 cases were under surveillance, 31 were regarded as quiescent, and six had ceased to be considered. The way in which they were dealt with can be summarised as follows:—

(1) CHILDREN

(a) Already in care when case considered	...	2 families
(b) Taken into care subsequently	...	2 „
(2) Prosecution (for maintenance or school attendance)	...	8 „
(3) Concerted action by different Departments	9	„
(4) Follow-up by individual Departments	...	17 „
(5) Rehousing	...	5 „
(6) Observation	...	15 „
(7) Referred for medical or special educational treatment	...	4 „
(8) Left the district	...	3 „

Of the total number of cases mentioned above, thirteen families were dealt with in more than one category, being kept under observation as well as handled in some other way.

The conditions under which the majority of these families were living must inevitably have had a blighting effect on their children's lives even if suffering did not occur to an extent that warranted prosecution. If the children are taken into care a heavy burden of expense falls on the community. Apart from this, it should be noted that two-thirds of the families occupy Corporation property, and a good deal of damage occurs to this property in consequence.

The activities of the Co-ordinating Committee have been effective in pooling information and achieving a certain amount of concerted action in a few cases. It is felt that the need for a problem family worker, to supplement the efforts of the Committee, remains. Another urgent need is the provision of temporary accommodation for mothers and children of families where eviction becomes inevitable.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Live Births

There were 1,512 live births notified, representing a birth rate of 17.1 per 1,000. The number of births was 18 higher than in 1953, when the rate was 17.0 per 1,000.

There were 51 illegitimate births, seven more than in 1953.

Still-Births

There were 32 still-births, representing a rate of 20.7 per 1,000 live and still-births. The rate showed a considerable reduction compared with that in 1953, and for the first time since 1948 was lower than the still-birth rate for England and Wales as a whole.

Year	Birth Rates		Still-Birth Rates	
	West Bromwich	England and Wales	West Bromwich	England and Wales
1947	20.9	20.6	29.8	24.0
1948	19.5	17.9	22.6	23.0
1949	19.5	16.7	25.4	22.7
1950	17.8	15.8	24.9	22.9
1951	17.5	15.5	24.3	22.7
1952	17.2	15.3	32.2	26.6
1953	17.0	15.5	30.0	22.4
1954	17.1	15.2	20.7	23.5

Premature Births

Of the total live births 131 or 8.7% were premature, an increase in incidence, the figure for 1953 being 6.4%. There were 46 babies born prematurely at home, where 45 were nursed entirely; premature births in hospital numbered 85.

Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under the age of one year numbered 56, representing an infant death rate of 37 per 1,000 live births, the highest rate recorded since 1949.

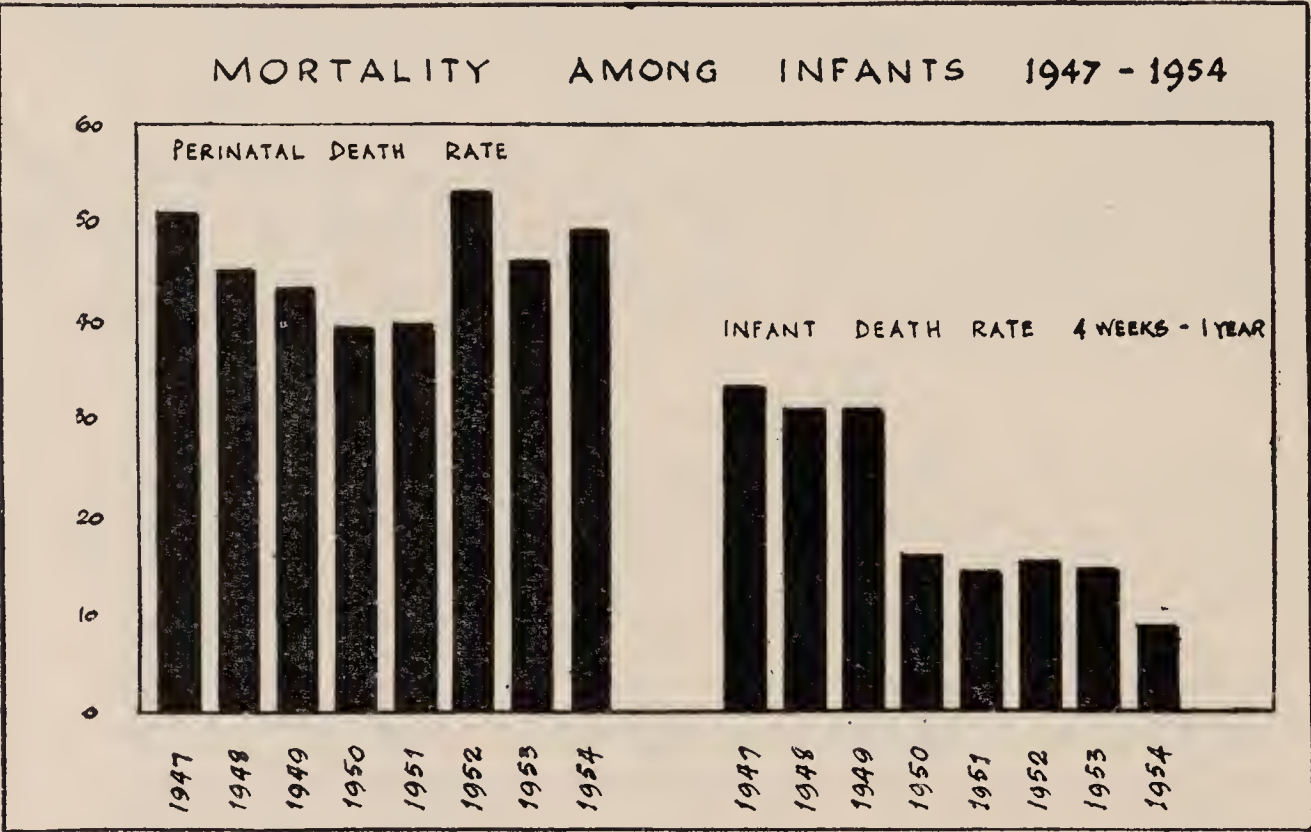
The illegitimate death rate was 78.4 per 1,000 illegitimate births, compared with the legitimate infant death rate of 35.6.

INFANT MORTALITY		
Year	West Bromwich	England & Wales
1947	54.6	41.0
1948	53.0	34.0
1949	49.0	32.0
1950	30.0	29.8
1951	29.5	29.6
1952	35.9	27.6
1953	30.1	26.8
1954	37.0	25.5

Prematurity was the commonest cause of death in infancy, accounting for 30.4% of all deaths.

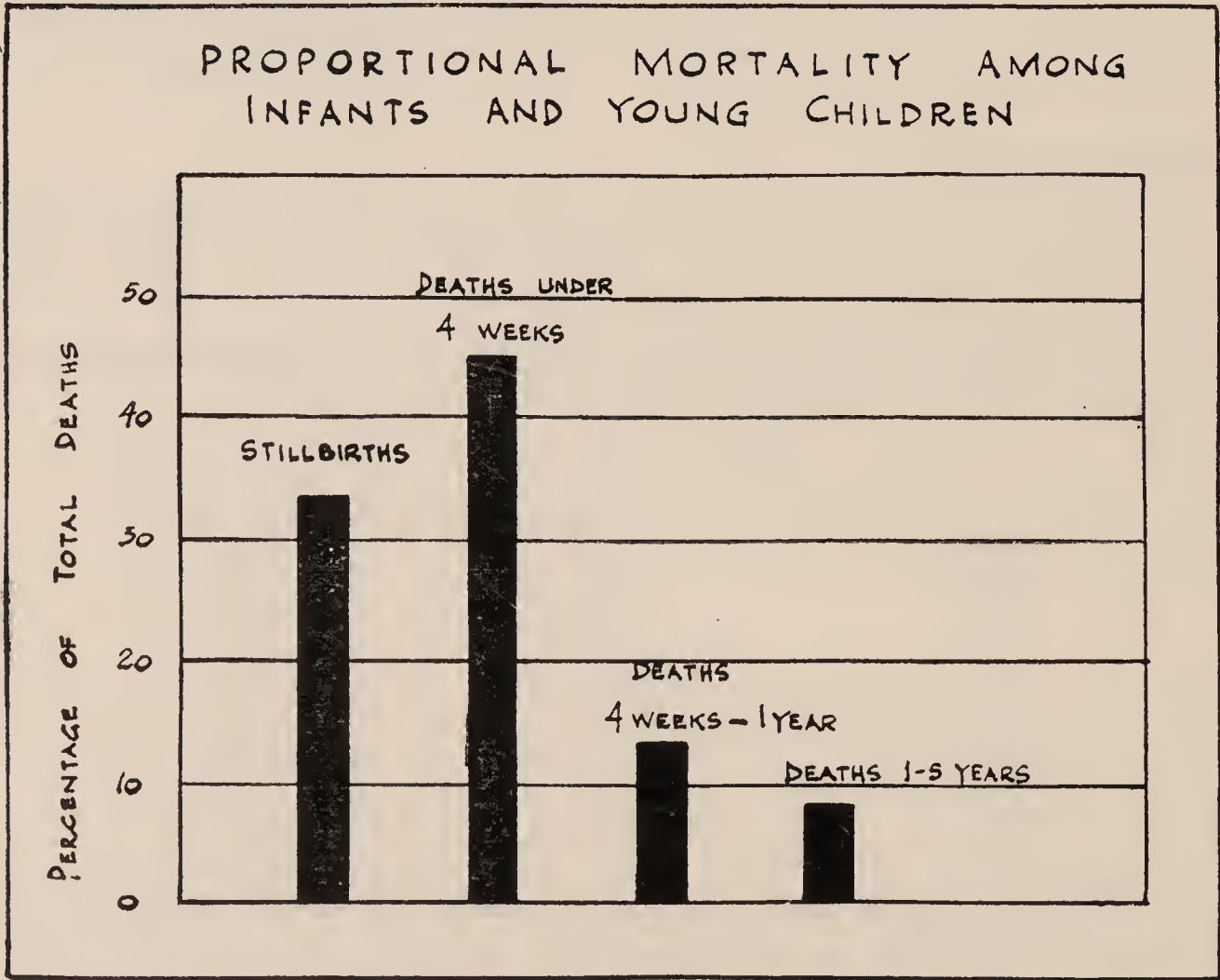
Table I illustrates the fact that although the causes of death between one month and one year — mainly infectious diseases — have declined, the total of still-births and deaths in the first month of life has remained fairly constant in the past six years.

TABLE I



The position in West Bromwich is seen even more clearly when one considers the proportional mortality among infants and young children up to five years of age.

TABLE II



MATERNITY

(including domiciliary midwifery)

I. Midwives practicing in the area

Number of midwives practising at the end of the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority :—

(a) Municipal midwives	... ..	10
(b) Midwives employed by voluntary organisations :		
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	... ..	nil
(ii) Otherwise (including hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act, 1946)	... ..	nil
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act :—		
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	... ..	nil
(ii) Otherwise	... ..	8
(d) Midwives in private practice (including midwives employed in nursing homes)	... ..	2
		20
		—

II. The Domiciliary Midwifery Service

(1) General Arrangements

All the domiciliary midwifery is carried out by the ten midwives employed by the Council and two midwives in private practice. The Chief Nursing Officer carries out the immediate supervision and arranging of the work of the Health Department midwives. The medical supervisor of midwives is the obstetrician in charge of the hospital obstetric service. Each midwife works in an area demarcated on the map of the borough, but a certain amount of flexibility is necessary to cover gaps due to illness, periods off duty, or absence of a midwife from some other cause.

(2) Ante-natal care for midwifery cases

The bulk of the ante-natal care is carried out by general practitioners at their own surgeries, supplemented by periodic examinations by the midwife and her pupil in the mother's home. A minority of mothers prefer to attend a clinic for routine care. If they do so, they

invariably book with a general practitioner under the maternity medical service, seeing him early in pregnancy and again at the 36th week with a full report from the clinic. Wasserman and Kahn and rhesus testing are carried out in every case attending local authority clinics.

(3) Administration of Pethidine

Pethidine was given in 296 of the cases (55.4%) in which the midwife was acting on her own responsibility.

(4) Gas and air analgesia

It is the policy of the domiciliary midwifery service to ensure 100% availability of gas and air analgesis in domiciliary practice and to see that every mother is instructed in the use of the apparatus during pregnancy.

Gas and air was administered to 407 women in labour in 1954.

- (5) During the year nine still-births and twelve neo-natal deaths occurred at home. In two cases of still-birth, the foetus had congenital abnormalities, and in three cases the mother suffered from toxæmia of pregnancy. In four cases the cause of foetal death was unknown.

The causes of neo-natal deaths were:—

Congenital Malformations	...	7
Prematurity	... ..	2
Lobar Pneumonia	... ..	1
Haemorrhagic Disease of Newborn		1
Undiagnosed	... ..	1
		—
		12
		—

(6) Emergency obstetric service

This service is readily available and operates from Hallam Hospital. It was called out on 24 occasions during 1954 and every mother made a good recovery.

Details of the cases are as follows:—

Retained placenta	... ..	13
Ante-partum haemorrhage	...	1
Post-partum haemorrhage	...	8
Abortion	... ..	1
Obstructed labour	... ..	1

(7) Notifications by midwives to the local supervising authority

Medical aid was called in accordance with the Rules of the Central Midwives Board on 195 occasions during the year. The reasons given were as follows:—

(a) MOTHER

Ante-partum haemorrhage	...	10
Delay in first stage	... ..	1
Delay in second stage	... ..	3
Foetal heart not heard	... ..	2
Giddiness and vomiting	... ..	12
Inflamed vein	... ..	7
Malpresentation	... ..	5
Post-partum haemorrhage	... ..	3
Premature labour	... ..	4
Prolapsed cord	... ..	2
Pyrexia	... ..	8
Retained placenta	... ..	4
Ruptured perineum	... ..	69
Threatened miscarriage	... ..	1
Thrombosis	... ..	1
Obstructed labour	... ..	4
Inflamed breast	... ..	4
Obstetric shock	... ..	1
Phlebitis	... ..	1
Cardiac	... ..	1
Bronchitis	... ..	1
Placenta praevia	... ..	1
Uterine inertia	... ..	1
Poor general condition	... ..	6
Offensive lochia	... ..	2
High blood pressure	... ..	2
Others	... ..	2
		— 158

(b) BABY

Asphyxia pallida	... ..	6
Cold	... ..	4
Congenital heart	... ..	1
Convulsions	... ..	1
Discharging eyes	... ..	14
Haemorrhage	... ..	1
Illness undiagnosed	... ..	6
Malformation	... ..	2
Septic spots	... ..	1
Swelling leg	... ..	1
		— 37
		— 195

(8) Post-natal care of domiciliary cases

Every effort is made to persuade mothers to go to the doctor providing maternity medical services for a post-natal examination.

(9) Training in Domiciliary Midwifery

In conjunction with Sutton Coldfield Maternity Hospital, pupil midwives are trained in West Bromwich for Part II of the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

(10) Post-graduate education of midwives

The domiciliary midwives take turns in attending post-graduate courses organised by the Royal College of Midwives for midwives engaged in teaching. One midwife attended a course held in London, in 1954.

III. Places of Confinement

Most babies were born in the Maternity Department, Hallam Hospital, and the trend of places of confinement can be seen from the following table:—

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Hospital deliveries ...	662 (38.7%)	689	761	735	811	822	863 (55.4%)
Private Nursing Home deliveries ...	119 (6.9%)	91	15	20	9	11	14 (0.9%)
Domiciliary deliveries ...	930 (54.4%)	925	830	821	720	690	680 (43.6%)

IV. Notifiable infectious diseases associated with child-birth

(1) Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	...	nil
(2) Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	10
(3) Pemphigus neonatorum ...	...	nil

V. Maternal Mortality

No death occurred during the year.

VI. Ante-Natal Clinics

Ante-natal clinics are held at six of the local authority's welfare centres, and also at Hallam Hospital Maternity Department. Two of the local authority's clinics are attended by the obstetrician in charge of the hospital services, the others by

resident medical officers from Hallam Hospital. Cases of abnormality may be referred to the regular ante-natal clinics at the hospital or be seen there by appointment.

The local health authority's staff do not attend at the hospital ante-natal clinics, but at those held in welfare centres a health visitor and one or two midwives are customarily present.

Maternity outfits are kept centrally at the Health Department and are supplied to expectant mothers at the seventh month, on presentation of a chit supplied by the midwife booked to attend them.

Mothercraft training is carried out regularly at ante-natal clinics and infant welfare centres. Health talks are given by health visitors to small groups and demonstrations are arranged in connection with the making of infants' clothes and the preparation of feeds. Health topics are illustrated by black-board and poster displays, changed weekly.

Unmarried mothers are dealt with at ordinary ante-natal sessions, though generally they attend the hospital clinic since owing to primiparity or unsatisfactory home conditions a domiciliary confinement is considered undesirable. The health visitor or sister in charge of the clinic puts the mother in touch with the Moral Welfare Worker.

ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS, 1954

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>First Attendances</i>	<i>Re- Attendances</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Boulton Road	82	420	502
Highfields	96	416	512
Hill Top	120	475	595
Stone Cross	133	495	628
Hamstead	20	91	111
Greets Green	61	315	376

VII. West Bromwich Family Planning Association

Sessions organised by the West Bromwich Family Planning Association commenced on the 22nd September, 1954. Clinics are held weekly at the Highfields Infant Welfare Centre, Bratt Street, by permission of the Council, on Wednesdays from 7.0 to 9.0 p.m. The total number of persons seen between 22.9.54 and 22.12.54 was 66. The preliminary figures of sources and reasons for referral of cases can be summarised as follows:—

SOURCE	REASON
Referred by medical practitioners 8	Housing conditions ... 6
Referred by Health Department 14	Medical 12
West Bromwich residents previously attending clinics in other areas ... 32	Spacing of children ... 47
Personal introduction ... 6	Financial 1
Referred by Marriage Guidance Council ... 2	
Attended because of press publicity 4	

CHILD WELFARE

I. Premature Babies

During 1954 there were 131 live births of babies weighing 5½ lbs. and under, and 15 still-births. The following table shows their weights, place of birth and survival :—

Weight at Birth	Premature live births												Premature still-births		
	Born in hospital				Born and nursed entirely at home				Born at home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day				Born in hospital	Born at home	Born in nursing home
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Survival %	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Survival %	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Survival %			
3 lbs. 4 ozs or less ...	13	4	5	38.5	4	1	1	25.0	—	—	—	—	5	2	—
3 lbs. 5 ozs. to 4 lbs. 6 ozs. ...	17	3	14	82.4	4	—	4	100	1	—	1	100	4	1	—
4 lbs. 7 ozs. to 4 lbs. 15 ozs. ...	24	2	20	83.3	4	—	4	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 lbs. to 5 lbs. 8 ozs.	31	—	31	100	33	—	30	90.9	—	—	—	—	2	1	—

The prematurity rate in West Bromwich in 1953 (6.4%) was lower than the national average (6.6%), but rose to 8.7% in 1954.

II. Child Welfare Clinics

(a) STAFF

Each clinic should be staffed by a medical officer, two health visitors, and one or more voluntary workers.

(b) ATTENDANCES AT CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

Clinic	Number of children who attended and were born in :		Total number of children who attended during the year	Number of attendances made by children who at their first attendance were :		Total attendances	Number of sessions	
	1954	1953		Under 1 year	1 but under 5 years		Weekly	Per year
Boulton Road	150	104	407	2,367	1,004	3,371	2	99
Highfields ...	378	233	532	4,767	805	5,572	2	99
Hill Top ...	197	184	485	3,463	727	4,190	2	99
Stone Cross ...	237	205	547	3,622	744	4,366	2	99
Hamstead ...	122	102	263	1,683	633	2,316	1	50
Greets Green	123	112	309	1,925	561	2,486	1	51
Friar Park ...	126	105	240	2,083	618	2,701	1	51

(c) FOODS AND MEDICANTS

At the end of June the responsibility for the distribution of National Welfare Foods passed from the Food Office to the Health Department. A central distribution centre (open during office hours) was set up in the Health Department, and one full-time and one part-time clerk were employed to deal with the large volume of clerical work involved in the scheme, and to serve the public at the counter. In addition, arrangements for distribution were made at all the child welfare clinics in the Borough. Proprietary dried milks and foods are stocked at the clinics.

III. General Developments

During the year, the new infant welfare centre at Friar Park approached completion, and it was opened by the Rt. Hon. John Dugdale, M.P., on January 19th, 1955. Since then, its value has been proved for child welfare, ante-natal and minor ailment clinics.

IV. Illegitimate Children

I am indebted to the Secretary of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work for the following report

on the work of the Social Welfare Worker, Miss K. M. Lavender, in West Bromwich during 1954.

On 1st January, 1954, there were three girls resident in Homes, and during the year another five were admitted.

Nineteen expectant mothers and seven mother and baby cases were seen and helped or advised, according to their needs.

Five mothers, when due to leave our Homes, had their babies placed by the Association with suitable adopters (away from the area) and chosen from our register. All appear to be very satisfactory placements, the babies doing well and the adopters very happy.

Two mothers took their babies home and have since married the putative fathers.

Arrangements for admission to Homes of three expectant mothers were cancelled — one decided on a home confinement, one arranged to go elsewhere, and one was admitted as an emergency case to hospital and the baby lived only a few days.

Four expectant mothers moved to other areas. One expectant mother, having decided that she would continue to live with the putative father, refused admission to our Home and went to stay with his relatives for the time being. One mother, keeping her child, has since married a man — not the father of the child — who is applying to adopt the baby. Two expectant mothers were found resident posts pending their admission to our Homes. They gave every satisfaction to their employers and were very happy. Two young mothers were found hospital domestic posts after leaving the Homes, and two, keeping their babies, were offered resident posts where the babies would be accepted, but these offers were refused.

Three babies have been placed from other areas with adopters on our list living in West Bromwich. Two of these adoptions have been made legal and the other is to be considered in Court soon. One West Bromwich child is still in one of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. No contribution is being paid towards the maintenance of this child and the mother has disappeared.

Three affiliation orders have been made through the Courts. In several cases which have been investigated, orders cannot be made because there is insufficient evidence against the suspected man.

There have been a number of other enquiries and, where possible, advice has been given.

V. Ultra Violet Light Clinic

Ultra violet light clinics are held on Monday and Thursday afternoons at Stone Cross Clinic and the Central School Clinic. During the year 150 children, making 2,981 attendances, received artificial sunlight treatment.

HEALTH VISITING

1. Staff

The health visiting staff consists of the Chief Nursing Officer and eleven health visitors/school nurses. These ladies are employed full-time by the Corporation but not continuously as health visitors because they give a proportion of their time, approximately 4/11ths, to the school health service.

2. Home visits paid by health visitors during the year

The area of the County Borough is divided into eleven districts, one health visitor being in charge of each district and working under the general supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer. In these districts they carry out the visiting of infants and young children up to the age of five. In addition, they visit cases of infectious disease and patients with other illnesses, particularly the aged or infirm or those suffering from chronic diseases.

There is close liaison with the hospitals for the follow-up of children or elderly persons who have been discharged. In addition, an arrangement exists with the medical staff of Hallam Hospital whereby cases for whom application is made for admission to the chronic wards are visited by the health visitors in their homes and an assessment made of the urgency for their admission.

There is a scheme for training health visitors in Birmingham, and student health visitors are regularly assisted to follow this course. Observation visits for students undertaking this course are arranged in West Bromwich. A student who is enrolled attends a nine months' course of instruction conducted jointly by the Public Health Department and the University of Birmingham. After passing the examination for the Health Visitor's Certificate, the health visitor commences her duties with the local health authority sponsoring her training and contracts to continue in its service for twelve months. One student health visitor enrolled in the course which began in September, 1954.

Health Visitors' Inspections					1953	1954
First visits to births	...	...	...	...	1,472	1,467
Re-visits to children under twelve months					6,817	7,074
Re-visits to children aged 1—5 years	...			...	12,933	13,170
Visits to cases of infectious disease				...	303	191
Visits to expectant mothers	...			...	265	357
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1,483	2,015
B.C.G.	...	...	...	...	264	1,326
Totals					23,537	25,600

Total number of visits to children under five years ... 21,711

3. Work at Child Welfare Clinics

A health visitor was present at all the 528 sessions of the Child Welfare Clinics held during the year.

HOME NURSING

1. Staff

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Chief Nursing Officer 	—	1
State Registered Nurses — Full-time	2	3
State Registered Nurses — Part-time	—	4

2. General arrangements

The district nurses work under the supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer, to whom application is made for their services and who allocates and organises their duties. Five full-time and four part-time nurses are available for this work. It is difficult to assess the number of hours necessary to cover all cases adequately. By employing some part-time personnel it is possible to increase the amount of nursing time available during a period of heavy demand for their services, but as the nurses usually have domestic ties the part-time nurses are unable to work longer hours for prolonged periods. This service has expanded considerably since 1951, and it now seems that either an increase in the total number of staff, or preferably, better transport facilities for the present nurses, especially the full-time members, should be considered.

There is good co-operation with the general practitioners of the area who appear to understand the scope of the service as well as its limitations. Relations with members of the staff of local hospitals are good. Arrangements are made for the continuation of treatment after a patient's discharge, and, in the case of tuberculous patients, for treatment to begin before the patient is admitted to hospital. In cases of chronic illness, where circumstances deteriorate to a point at which domiciliary treatment is no longer adequate to cover the patient's needs, the hospital will generally accept the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health regarding the urgency of the case for admission.

Night calls are covered by a rota of nurses so that one is available every night. Calls are transmitted by the Ambulance Department through which transport is arranged.

3. Cases nursed during the year

(a) The following table shows the source of new patients during the year:—

General practitioners 	715
Chest Clinic 	46
Hospitals 	45
Transfers from another area ...	1
	<hr/> 807 <hr/>

(b)	1953	1954
Total number of patients nursed	792	807
Total number of visits paid ...	27,113	30,352

17,759 visits were paid to patients over 65 years of age compared with 82 to patients aged less than five years.

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF WORK

Patients treated for medical conditions were the persons mainly catered for during the year (724 patients, 28,065 visits).

It is interesting to report that 167 patients received injections during 1954, and that 49 patients suffering from tuberculosis received general nursing attention and treatment. Nineteen patients received treatment for surgical conditions, and fourteen patients were treated for complications of pregnancy.

4. Loan of Nursing Equipment

The following articles were loaned during the year :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>No.</i>
Air rings ...	60	Foot baths ...	2
Baby scales ...	1	Head mirrors ...	2
Back rests ...	90	Hot water bottles ...	3
Bed—hospital type ...	1	Spinal carriage ...	1
Bedpans—crock ...	130	Sputum cups ...	16
rubber ...	17	Urinals ...	54
Cages ...	11	Urinal bags ...	3
Commode chairs ...	4	Waterproof sheets ...	127
Crutches, pair ...	1	Wheel chairs ...	22
Feeding cups ...	26		

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

(i) Diphtheria

Table showing the number of primary immunisations completed and the number of reinforcing injections given during 1954 :—

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Number of Children at 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of Immunisation *at any time before that date* (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1940).

Age at 31.12.54 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1954	1-4 1953-1950	5-9 1949-1945	10-14 1944-1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) A.1950-1954	39	3071	4677	485	8272
B.1949 or earlier	—	—	2398	3491	5889
Estimated mid- year child population ...	1440	5960	14600		22000
Immunity Index 1954 ...	2.7	51.5	35.4		37.6
Immunity Index 1953 ...	2.1	53.6	33.4		36.2

Although there was an increase in the number of reinforcing injections given in 1953 and 1954, mainly in mass immunisation in schools situated in areas where cases of diphtheria had occurred during 1953, the percentages of the child population protected from the disease (the Immunity Index) remains far from satisfactory.

Of the immunisations carried out during 1954, 264 primary immunisations and 144 reinforcing injections were carried out by general practitioners participating in the Council's scheme under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. All other injections were carried out by the staff of the Health Department.

- (ii) In July, 1954, immunisation against both diphtheria and whooping cough, using a suspended preparation, began to replace immunisation against whooping cough alone. The following table shows the total number of immunisations against whooping cough only completed by the staff of the department in 1954 :—

<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>3 years</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>5 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
—	6	2	4	1	—	13

(iii) Vaccination against smallpox

Table showing successful vaccinations performed during the year :—

<i>Age at date of vaccination</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2—4 years</i>	<i>5—14 years</i>	<i>15 years and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Number vaccinated (primary)</i>	234	13	5	4	14	270
<i>Number re- vaccinated</i>	—	—	2	5	71	78

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Administration

This service is administered and operated directly by the Corporation's Transport Department on behalf of the Health Committee.

Mode of Transport

The ambulances are used for journeys in West Bromwich and to and from centres in the area. For more lengthy journeys, arrangements are made with British Railways for the booking of compartments on trains leaving one of the main line stations, and it is sometimes found that rail journeys are shorter, more comfortable, and cheaper than travel by road. The number of patients carried by train in 1954 was three compared with six in 1953.

Ambulances

The vehicles in service are as follows:—

<i>Type</i>	<i>Placed in service</i>	<i>Mileage 1954/55</i>
Austin	24.1.29	78
Morris	18.12.39	11,471
Austin	1.2.46	1,109
(1935 model ex Civil Defence)		
Austin	26.7.48	9,219
Daimler	26.7.49	20,178
Morris	6.7.49	17,482
Daimler	22.1.51	26,017

The oldest ambulance is due to be taken out of service, and the gradual replacement of some of the other vehicles with more modern and comfortable types, seems desirable.

Staff

There has been no increase in the number of drivers and attendants during 1954.

Activities

The figures below show the increased use of the service since 1948:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of patients</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1949	7,112	50,893
1950	7,255	54,925
1951	8,918	65,405
1952	14,354	71,088
1953	18,275	80,339
1954	19,800	83,894

The most striking feature of the increase in the patients carried has been in the case of hospital out-patients, and can be seen in the following table :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of out-patients</i>
1949	3,300
1950	3,824
1951	5,008
1952	9,857
1953	13,548
1954	15,009

In addition, housing estates are being developed in the peripheral parts of the borough, and this will inevitably mean that the mileage covered will increase still further.

HOME HELP SERVICE

1. General Trends

The number of patients helped has increased steadily since 1951, and the ratio of maternity cases to the aged and chronic sick, which in 1951 was 1 to 2.8, had in 1954 become 1 to 5.2.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Maternity</i>	<i>Aged and Chronic Sick</i>
1951	52	144
1952	60	187
1953	59	195
1954	43	225

2. Classification of Cases helped in last two years

The work carried out was much the same in 1954 as in 1953; with the exception that the totals of maternity and chronic sick cases differed considerably :—

	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>
Home confinements	51	38
Other maternity cases	8	5
Others including acute illness	47	48
Aged and chronically sick ...	195	225
Tuberculosis	12	10
	<hr/> 313	<hr/> 326

I am pleased to report that no case was refused help owing to pressure of work, although the amount of help given was necessarily reduced on certain occasions.

108 patients (about one-third of the total) received continuous help during the year.

Long term cases (i.e. those of more than three months' duration) on the books at the end of 1954 can be analysed as follows :—

Aged and infirm	27
Arthritis, rheumatism	25
Blind, partially sighted	6
Bronchitis, pneumonia	8
Carcinoma	5
Cardiac	27
Congenital deformity of lower limbs	1
Diabetic	2
Disseminated sclerosis	2
Epileptic	1
Loss of parents	2
Nervous illness	3
Old poliomyelitis	1
Peptic ulcer	3
Phlebitis, varicose veins	4
Stroke, hypertension	23
Tuberculosis	3
Total ...	<hr/> 143

Aged patients (i.e. persons over 75 years of age) form 43% of the total. It is usually found that younger patients, having received help for a specific medical or surgical condition, make a good recovery. The older patients are often infirm before the onset of an illness during which they urgently require assistance, and frequently fail to recover complete independence.

Sitters-In

This part of the service, in a limited way, relieves the demands which are made on the relatives of sick persons.

	1953	1954
Number of Sitters-In employed ...	2	2
Number of cases helped ...	13	16

Classification of cases helped:

		1953	1954
EMERGENCY —	Ascites ...	1	—
	Carcinoma ...	2	4
	Diarrhoea ...	1	—
	Heart condition ...	—	4
	Influenza ...	1	—
	Pneumonia ...	2	1
	Senility ...	1	—
	Stroke ...	2	—
		— 10	— 9
AWAITING HOSPITAL ADMISSION —			
	Carcinoma ...	1	—
	Heart ...	—	1
	Senility ...	—	1
	Stroke ...	1	—
		— 2	— 2
CHRONIC —	Carcinoma ...	—	1
	Senility ...	—	1
	Stroke ...	1	2
		— 1	— 4
TEMPORARY —	Convalescent after operation ...	—	1
		— —	— 1

The Ministry of Health Circular 27/54 on the “Prevention of Break-up of Families” was received in November, and although no direct action was taken during the year, a selected Home Help began to give assistance to a few suitable problem families in April, 1955.

3. Finance

The patients helped were classified for payment as follows :

Full payment (3/3d. per hour)	...	31
Assessed for part payment	...	287
Free	... ..	8

It is known that between October and the end of December eight patients refused help because they could not or would not pay the assessed rate.

The categories of patients paying in full for the service were :—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	13
Temporary	...	...	...	...	5
Emergency	...	...	...	...	4
Chronic sick	...	...	...	...	8
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1

Cost of the service

Year	Cost £	Receipts £	Net Cost £
1.4.51 to 31.3.52	3,715	787	2,928
1.4.52 to 31.3.53	5,086	876	4,210
1.4.53 to 31.3.54	6,088	1,238	4,850
1.4.54 to 31.3.55	6,251	1,129	5,122

4. Staff

		1953	1954
Full-time	... ..	12	12
Part-time	... ..	21	25
Total hours worked	...	36,780	37,583

The Home Helps classified as being employed full-time, work from 9.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. daily, or longer if required (35—43 hours a week). Those employed part-time work 3—4 hours daily, generally from 9.0 a.m. to 12 noon or 1.0 p.m.

MENTAL HEALTH

1. Administration

(a) The Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee is composed of ten members of the Council and meets monthly.

(b) Staff

i. MEDICAL : The Medical Officer of Health and Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

ii. NON- Duly Authorised Officers :

MEDICAL : W. D. Foden (Joint appointment with County Borough of Smethwick)

A. Shaw (Part-time)

Mental Health Officer : Miss I. Siddall

Psychiatric Social Worker : W. S. Terry
(Part-time)

These officers undertake social and community care for both mental defectives and mental patients. A rota of duty has been arranged so that a Duly Authorised Officer is always available to deal with emergencies.

(c) Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committee

The Mental Health Officer prepares home reports on patients in mental deficiency institutions, when periods of holiday at home, or of licence, are considered. She accompanies many of the patients to and from institutions, and supervises patients on licence in the area of the County Borough. The Duly Authorised Officers keep closely in touch with members of the staff of mental hospitals, and the Psychiatric Social Worker is responsible for the after-care of patients discharged from hospitals.

(d) Duties delegated to voluntary associations

No duty of the local health authority has been delegated to a voluntary association.

(e) Training of Mental Health Workers

A Duly Authorised Officer attended a Mental Health Refresher Course, organised by the City of Birmingham Public Health Department and held at the Martineau Teachers' Centre, 225, Bristol Road, Birmingham, from 1st to 5th February, 1954.

2. Account of Work Undertaken in the Community

(a) After-care of patients suffering from mental illness

This work is principally concerned with the after-care of patients discharged from mental hospitals. Its purpose is to provide support and guidance to the patient and the family during the period of readjustment to normal life in the community. In this way strains which might lead to further breakdown can often be removed.

Some of the difficulties are material, concerning housing, employment and finance. In these cases the Psychiatric Social Worker works through the appropriate agencies in search of the arrangements most appropriate to the patient's needs.

In other cases the difficulties are more personal, and the need is for better relationships between the patient and his family. Mental illness often brings considerable stress into the home. The patient's behaviour, possibly over a long period before going into hospital, may have been very difficult; or there may be resentment on the part of a wife because her husband has not secured her discharge from hospital earlier; or, if a husband has been violent and was certified, his wife may view his return home with some apprehension. In addition, there are the complications that relations-in-law sometimes bring to the situation, and it will be seen that the home to which a patient returns is not always a haven of peace. Such conditions have been met with in many of the cases which come under the heading of general supervision.

There are other cases where the illness is chronic or recurrent; here the Psychiatric Social Worker's role is the support of those responsible in the home. They are usually glad to feel that they have "someone behind them" as they often put it.

It can safely be said that this comparatively new service has now found its own distinctive place in the social services in the area, and other agencies are now beginning to seek the advice of the Psychiatric Social Worker in cases where mental health is involved.

The following typical cases indicate the nature of the work done :—

CASE No. 12

A middle-aged man suffering from recurrent depression, the attacks being prolonged. He is stone deaf and Psychiatric Social Worker has several times brought his case to the notice of the Society for the Deaf who have visited him. An occasional visit is a help to his wife.

CASE NO. 259

An elderly woman who is rather helpless and is supported by her sister. She spends much of the day alone. A few friends visit occasionally and she is very grateful for a call from the Psychiatric Social Worker.

Number of cases dealt with in 1954

Age		Male	Female	Total
Under 20 years	...	2	3	5
20—29	„ ...	17	10	27
30—39	„ ...	12	11	23
40—49	„ ...	19	14	33
50—59	„ ...	18	10	28
60—69	„ ...	—	13	13
70 and over	...	4	4	8
		—	—	—
Totals	...	72	65	137
		—	—	—

Assistance was given in the following main types of difficulties:—

Serious domestic problems	...	...	9
Housing	... ..	...	7
Securing further treatment	...	...	26
Employment	... ..	...	12
Securing national assistance	...	...	8
Contact with other agencies	...	...	29
General supervision	...	...	63

Disposal of cases at end of 1954

Continued	... ..	41
Adjusted	... ..	62
Readmitted to hospital	... ..	19
(Two subsequently died in hospital)		
Died	... ..	1
Removed	... ..	9
Unco-operative	... ..	1
Referred to other agencies	... ..	4

Case Load

From 50 to 60 at any one time.	
Home visits and interviews	... .. 551

(b) Club for backward young adults

During the autumn of 1954 a Voluntary Committee was formed to organise and supervise a club for backward young adults. Persons under voluntary and statutory supervision were invited to join the club, which meets on two evenings weekly. Members are asked to pay a minimum subscription of 6d. per week. Regular meetings of the club commenced early in 1955.

(c) Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890—1930

The figures for admissions and discharges are as follows:—

<i>Admissions:</i>	1951	1952	1953	1954
Certified	46	26	29	16
Temporary	1	—	2	—
Voluntary	60	60	55	57
3 day Order	8	3	3	12
7 day Urgency Order	1	—	8	10
14 day Order	1	2	6	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	117	91	103	103
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Discharges:</i>	1951	1952	1953	1954
Certified	19	18	17	14
3 day Order	1	1	—	1
3 day Order (extended)	—	—	—	2
7 day Urgency Order	1	—	2	3
14 day Order	1	—	—	2
Temporary	—	—	—	2
Voluntary	60	49	53	62
Died	14	14	10	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	96	82	82	102
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The total number of persons admitted to mental hospitals was the same as in 1953, and, as in previous years, more than half the admissions (55%) have been voluntary patients.

During 1954 an increasing number of patients has been admitted under 3 day, 7 day Urgency and 14 day Orders. In 1953 these Orders accounted for 16.5%, and in 1954 for 29%, of the admissions. It has been possible to deal with most of these patients without recourse to certification, as can be seen from the following table:—

	3 day Order	7 day Order	14 day Order
Discharged within period of Order	1	2	1
Order extended for further period; patient then discharged ...	3	—	—
Patient became voluntary patient	4	5	5
Patient certified	4	2	2
Patient classified as temporary patient	—	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	12	10	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(d) Old Age and Mental Illness

It has often been said that large numbers of old people are being certified unjustifiably, and that in any case of certification of an old person his near relatives have difficulty in emigrating and in taking out insurance policies. A committee of the National Corporation for the Care of Old People has investigated these statements on a national basis, and believe them to be substantially without foundation.

I am glad to report that only five of the twenty West Bromwich patients, aged more than 60 years, admitted to mental hospitals in 1954, were certified.

Admissions of persons over 60 years old to mental hospitals — Classified by type on admission



(e) Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938

(i) ASCERTAINMENT

Twelve new cases were added to the register in 1954. Of these, ten were reported by the Education Committee (eight under Section 57(5) and two under Section 57(3)). Two were reported from other sources. The details of the patients are as follows:—

	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>
	16	16	16	16
Referred by Local Education Authority	—	5	—	5
Referred by doctors ...	1	—	—	—
Referred by Welfare Officer ...	—	—	1	—
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	5	1	5
	—	—	—	—

Action taken under the Mental Deficiency Acts was as follows:—

	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>
	16	16	16	16
Certified under Mental Deficiency Acts and admitted to:—				
St. Margaret's Hospital	—	—	1	—
Lea Colony ...	—	1	—	—
New Cross Hospital	1	—	—	—
Placed under statutory supervision ...	—	5	1	5
Placed under voluntary supervision ...	—	—	—	1
	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	6	2	6
	—	—	—	—

Total number of cases on Authority's register as at 1.1.55:—

	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Under</i>
	16	16	16	16
Statutory supervision	61	29	53	61
Guardianship ...	—	—	—	—
Institution cases ...	84	7	88	11
Voluntary cases ...	3	5	8	8
Cases under friendly supervision ...	2	—	2	—
	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	150	41	151	80
	—	—	—	—

(ii) GUARDIANSHIP AND SUPERVISION

No case was under guardianship, but 194 cases were under statutory supervision and 28 under voluntary supervision.

No case is being supervised for outside authorities.

Thirteen West Bromwich patients on licence were under the care of this and other County Boroughs on 31st December, 1954 :—

<i>Male patients on licence</i>			<i>Female patients on licence</i>		
<i>Living in :</i>			<i>Living in :</i>		
West Bromwich ...	3		Smethwick ...	1	
Cheshire ...	1		West Bromwich ...	4	
<i>Working :</i>			Stourbridge ...	1	
Domestic ...	1		Worcester ...	1	
Factories ...	2		Birmingham ...	1	
Unemployed ...	1		Walsall ...	1	
			<i>Working :</i>		
			Domestic ...	9	

(iii) OCCUPATION CENTRE

In December, 1953, the Friar Park and Trinity Road Centre Classes and Home Teaching for backward children ended, and the first meeting of the group at the Occupation Centre was on the occasion of the Christmas Party. The children reassembled on the 11th January, 1954, and quickly demonstrated how much they had benefited from the part-time training of the preceding fifteen months. Handwork, physical training, and country dancing were continued, and by March there were 28 children on the register.

Dinners are supplied by the School Meals Service, and older girls have been trained to serve at tables. An experiment was made to teach two of the senior girls to bake cakes, and proved very successful. 'Bus passes are provided for the children.

The outstanding event in this section of the Health Department was the official opening of the Occupation Centre by Dr. R. H. H. Jolly, M.D., D.P.H., on the "Open Day" held on the 10th May, 1954, and handwork on show, made by the children attending the Centre, was quickly sold.

I am glad to pay tribute to the excellent work done by the staff of the Centre. The progress of these children is inevitably slow, but the work of the teachers is none the less important.

A meeting of the Parent/Teacher Group was held in November.

(iv) INSTITUTIONAL CARE

	Male	Female	
Number in institutions within the Region :—			
St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr	65	74	
New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton	1	—	
Lea Colony, Bromsgrove	1	2	
Monyhull Hall, Birmingham	1	—	
Stallington Hall, Stoke-on-Trent	1	—	
	69	76	145
On licence from St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr	2	10	
On licence from Coleshill Hall	1	—	
	3	10	13
Total			158

Number in institutions outside the
Region :—

	Male	Female	
General Hospital, West Hartlepool	—	2	
St. Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham	—	1	
Meanwood Park Hospital, Leeds	—	1	
Stoke Park Colony	1	—	
	1	4	5
Total			5

(v) PLACE OF SAFETY

No patient was placed in a "place of safety" during the year.

WELFARE SERVICES

The County Borough Council has delegated to the Welfare Services Committee its statutory functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948. The day-to-day administration is under the general direction of the Chief Welfare Officer, who is also the Medical Officer of Health. He is assisted in his duties by a Welfare Officer, members of the health department staff, and the five wardens and five full-time and four part-time staff at the residential homes.

Duties in relation to blind and deaf persons are delegated to voluntary organisations.

A. Care of the Aged

(i) Residential Accommodation (permanent)

Accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act is provided —

(a) Directly by the Council:—

- (1) The Hawthorns, Green Lane, West Bromwich, for 20 elderly ladies.
- (2) Lyndon House, Lyndon, West Bromwich, for 17 elderly persons (male and female).
- (3) Beech Holme, Beeches Road, West Bromwich, for 20 elderly men.

Mention was made in the Annual Report for 1953, that the Council had purchased the house adjacent to The Hawthorns, and a scheme for the extension of this home to take ten more persons was approved by the Ministry of Health in October of that year. The extension was ready for occupation in July, 1954.

- (b) By agreement with the Wolverhampton Corporation, 25 beds for elderly persons are made available at The Poplars, New Cross, Wolverhampton.

(c) PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

During the year the building of a new Home at the Yew Tree Estate, to accommodate 42 persons, was given consideration. The approval of the Ministry of Health has now been obtained and it is hoped that building will begin in the Autumn of 1955.

Financial Charges

The full financial charge to the Council per resident, at those Homes directly maintained by the Authority, is estimated at £4 12s. 9d. per week. At 31st December, 1954 43 residents without private means were paying a

basic sum of £1 6s. 6d. per week, whilst 14 were paying a proportion of the full charge according to their means. Each resident receives a minimum of 6/6d. per week pocket money, whilst five were given amounts of up to 5/- per week in return for small domestic services in or around the Homes.

Summary of Accommodation during 1954

	<i>Beech Holme</i>	<i>Lyndon</i>	<i>The Hawthorns</i>
Number of beds ...	20	17	20
Number of residents ...	20	17	19
Percentage bed occupancy	99	100	90
Number of admissions ...	1	—	11
Number of discharges ...	—	—	1
Number of deaths ...	—	—	—

There were 29 West Bromwich residents in The Poplars, Wolverhampton, at the end of the year. During 1954, eighteen persons had been admitted, eight discharged, and eight had died. Ten persons have been resident in The Poplars for more than two years.

(ii) General Welfare of the Aged and Infirm

Wherever possible a regular visiting service has been maintained to aged persons who are known to be living alone. There is a close liaison with voluntary organisations catering for the welfare of the aged, and everything possible is done to encourage old people to lead an independent life within the familiar surroundings of their own homes.

Health visitors play a valuable part in this work by making regular calls on aged persons within the area and by compiling medico-social reports to assess their needs and, if necessary, the degree of urgency of their admission to hospital. A waiting list of aged persons requiring hospital treatment is maintained in this manner.

Old people make considerable demands on the Home Help Service. During 1954 nearly one-half of the total of persons assisted were aged more than 75 years. Such people rarely regain complete independence after an illness.

Since the Welfare Officer took up his duties in March, 1954, he has compiled a register of 161 names. Thirty-four of these were already known to the department, and the list is being increased at a rate of twelve persons per month.

(iii) " Meals on Wheels "

This service was begun by the West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee in June, 1952, and until January, 1954, thirty old people received dinners once weekly. The meals were started again in November, 1954, serving seventeen persons, but because of the lack of helpers the service was finally disbanded in February, 1955.

In June, 1955, the Council invited the Women's Voluntary Service to make arrangements for the continuation of this service, commencing in October, 1955. The W.V.S. has received the gift of a van and the offer of equipment used by the West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee, and its members are very enthusiastic. The Council is making a grant to cover the running costs of the vehicle and towards the cost of each meal. It is thought that the cost of a meal will be 1/9d., of which 1/- will be paid by the recipient (based on an estimated delivery of 30 meals per week), and the remainder will be subsidised by the Council.

(iv) Chiropody

The West Bromwich Old People's Welfare Committee has made arrangements for a Chiropodist to attend one day a month at each of the Highfields and Stone Cross Clinics.

B. Residential Accommodation (temporary)

Temporary accommodation for individuals rendered homeless is available at The Poplars, Wolverhampton, and is not difficult to obtain because beds are usually available. Owing to lack of places in those Homes directly maintained by the Corporation, however, or because of their unsuitability, many of those admitted to The Poplars remain there for long periods.

The provision of places for families as distinct from individuals constitutes a serious problem because the entry of families into accommodation not designed for family use and the mixing of persons of different ages causes difficulties out of proportion to the numbers involved. West Bromwich, during 1954, had no facilities for placing such homeless families. Twelve families were temporarily homeless during the year and asked for accommodation. Some solved their difficulties themselves, but during the twelve months from 1.12.53 to 30.11.54, this proved impossible for nine families and, as a result, twenty children were taken into care by the Children's Department for an average period of eight months, at a cost of approximately £4,800.

C. Welfare Arrangements for Handicapped Persons

(a) The Blind and partially-sighted

During the year, thirteen people were certified as blind. No registrations were made in respect of the partially-sighted.

The following table shows the diagnosis of cases registered, those recommended for treatment, and the number taking advantage of treatment :—

		Cause of Disability			
		Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental	Others
				Fibroplasia	
1. Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which paragraph 7(c) of form B.D.8 recommends :—					
(i) No treatment	...	5	1	1	2
(ii) Treatment (medical surgical or optical)		4	—	—	—
2. Number of cases at 1(i) above which on follow-up have received treatment					
		2	—	—	—

The Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind acts as the Council's agents. It ensures that persons, certified as blind or partially-sighted by a Consultant Ophthalmologist, are registered and visited regularly. The Institute operates a workshop and sales section, and makes arrangements for home employment and tuition, handicraft classes, and a social club.

The Institute supervises the general social welfare of the blind within the whole area.

The number of registered blind persons in the Borough are shown in age groups in the following table :—

0—1 year		2—4 years		5—15 years		16—20 years		21—39 years		40—49 years		50—64 years		65—69 years		70 years and over	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—	—	1	—	4	—	2	2	4	—	8	4	10	7	3	2	24	28

Of the total of 99 persons (56 males and 43 females) 75% are over 55 years of age and 57% over 65.

Employment of the Blind

OPEN INDUSTRY OR SELF-EMPLOYED :—

Male

- 1 labourer in a printing works
- 1 storekeeper in a factory
- 2 basket makers
- 1 general dealer

The latter deals in almost every commodity, having his own stall in the Market Place which attracts a good deal of business.

WORKSHOP EMPLOYMENT :—

Male Female

—	2	Machine knitting department
2	—	Brush making department
1	—	Boot repairing department
2	—	Mat making department
2	—	Light assembly department
1	—	Piano Tuner (goes out from work-shop every day).

The Workshops for the Blind are situated in Birmingham, serving that area, Smethwick, West Bromwich, and part of outlying districts.

Sale of Goods

The Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind maintains its own sales organisation in Birmingham.

Social Activities

The Trinity Road Social Centre, situated within West Bromwich and maintained by the Council, serves as a centre for the normal social activities of the blind. Meetings take place every Thursday, between the hours of 10.0 a.m. and 5.0 p.m. A group of approximately 24 persons — 10 men and 14 women — are instructed by a Home Teacher of the Blind to make leather wallets and purses, pension book cases, plastic necklaces, hand scrubbers (wire on cloth backing), rugs (wool or chenile), candlewick work — cushion covers, etc., and stool seating (sea grass, etc.).

On every alternate Thursday afternoon these activities give way to that of a social club for this group. Tea and sandwiches are provided and the majority are conveyed to and from the centre by taxi.

Holidays

A group of 23, including nine seeing guides and two Home Teachers in charge, spent a week in May, 1954, at Cliftonville.

Blind Persons with Other Disabilities

<i>Deaf</i>		<i>Deaf and Dumb</i>		<i>Dumb</i>		<i>Hard of Hearing</i>		<i>Mentally Defective</i>	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	2	1	—	2	—	6	1	1	2

Fourteen blind persons (five males and nine females) died during 1954.

Partially Sighted

On December 31st, 1954, there were eight adults and five children on the observation register. The following table shows their age groupings:—

0—1		2—4		5—15		16—20		21—49		50—64		65—69		70 and over	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	1	3

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Total number of cases notified during the year Nil
Number of cases in which —

(a) Vision lost ... Nil

(b) Vision impaired ... Nil

(c) Treatment continuing to the end of the year Nil

General Welfare

Arrangements have been made for a number of blind people to have holidays at Homes for the Blind.

Wireless sets from the Wireless for the Blind Fund have been supplied to all persons in need. Maintenance and repairs are arranged locally — payment being made by the local authority.

Subscriptions to the National Library for the Blind are paid for three readers.

(b) Other Handicapped Classes

Deaf and Dumb (including Hard of Hearing)

The Church Mission to the Deaf and Dumb in Walsall, Wednesbury and Mid-Staffordshire (Headquarters in Walsall) are employed as the Council's Agents, and at the end of 1954 a total of 39 adults and nine children from West Bromwich were known to and registered by them. Arrangements are made for placement in employment, classes in lip-reading and the use of the standard manual alphabet, visitation to their homes, assistance, advice and encouragement to attend and participate in the activities of the Social Centre. Weekly social evenings are held at the Trinity Road Social Centre and include whist drives, films, etc. Every two weeks a Hard of Hearing Social Club is organised at the centre and caters for about 30 persons of both sexes from Smethwick and West Bromwich areas.

Six partially deaf children are also known to the Mission but at present are catered for by the local education authority.

Physically Handicapped (General Classes)

At the 31st December, 1954, the number of persons known to be physically handicapped in West Bromwich was 125, representing 0.14% of the population, and these are shown below in the statutory grouping and classification normally used:—

GROUP A.	Handicapped persons (other than children) who though possibly needing training for some new occupation are capable of work under ordinary industrial conditions ...	37
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Of the total number in this group, 34 are gainfully employed, one has retired from work, one is temporarily unemployed and is considering retirement, and one has been referred to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

GROUP B.	Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions, but who are mobile and capable of work in sheltered workshops ...	6
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Of the total number in this group, two are employed doing odd jobs (scrap collection, etc.) when fit enough, one is a trained boot and shoe repairer and is under Ministry of Labour consideration for fresh employment due to lack of normal trade, one now resident in The Poplars is being

considered for residential training, one is being considered under the Mental Deficiency Act, and one is fully employed in his own general shop.

GROUP C. Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of work under ordinary industrial conditions and who are insufficiently mobile for work in sheltered workshops, but who are capable of work at home ... 2

One is unwilling to participate in any training scheme and home employment cannot be found for the other.

GROUP D. Handicapped persons (other than children) who are incapable of, or not available for work 77

This group contains the largest number of cases with a wide range of disabilities. The persons included need to be under constant review if there is to be any movement to other groups. The extent of this group is probably better known than the others because the members have a far greater need of the available social services.

GROUP E. Handicapped persons who are children under the age of 16 years and whose needs are likely to be met under other enactments but for whom the local authority has a general responsibility under Section 29 of the Act 3

This group should always remain small because it is mainly covered by Health and Education Acts, although it could expand, as will the other groups, if the social services available become more widely known.

Outline of Disabilities

The 125 cases known to the department have been classified as follows :—

Amputation	... ... ... ... ...	8
Arthritis and rheumatism	... ... ...	14
Congenital malformations and deformities	...	13
Diseases of the digestive and genito-urinary systems; of the heart or circulatory system; of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) of the skin	... ... ... ...	16

Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk. Injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper and lower limbs and of the spine	31
Organic nervous diseases — epilepsy, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia, sciatica, etc.	23
Neurosis, psychosis and other nervous and mental disorders not included in organic nervous diseases	11
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	4
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	2
Diseases and injuries not specified above ...	3

Handicapped Children

The following shows a group of handicapped pupils who are known to, and cared for, under the Education Act:—

<i>Number</i>	<i>Name of school</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Type</i>
1	St. Elizabeth's	Much Hadham	Residential
1	St. Joseph's	Cranleigh	„
1	Whiteness Manor Hospital		Hospital School
2	Warwickshire Orthopaedic Hospital		„ „
2	Carlson House	Birmingham	Day Special
1	National Children's Home	Chipping Norton	Residential
1	Dr. Barnardo's Home	Yorkshire	„
1	High Close	Wokingham	„
1	George Street (West)		Day Special
1	St. Francis	Monyhull	Residential
1	Woodlands Hospital		„
1	St. Cuthbert's Hospital		Hospital School
1	Grammar School	West Bromwich	Normal Day School
39	Other Schools	„ „	Normal Day School
2	Awaiting admission to Residential Schools.		
4	Awaiting admission to special schools.		
5	Receiving Home Tuition.		
2	In hospital at present.		
2	Others.		

<i>Disability</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Residual poliomyelitis	3	5
Tuberculosis of bones and joints ...	6	7
Congenital defects :—		
(a) Spinal defects and/or lumbar meningocele	3	1
(b) Congenital Short Oesophagus	1	—
(c) Multiple deformities ...	1	1
Perthe's disease	7	—
Cerebral Palsy		
(a) Hemiplegia	2	2
(b) Paraplegia	4	4
(c) Athetosis	—	1
Rheumatism	—	1
Muscular dystrophy	2	—
Still's disease (suspect)	—	1
Osteomyelitis	2	—
Burns (multiple)	—	1
Achondroplasia	1	—
Others	9	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	41	28
	<hr/>	<hr/>

I am glad to report that more than two-thirds of the total number of children in this group attend ordinary local authority schools. Of the remainder, three are in Day Special schools, seven are in Residential Schools or Homes, four are in Hospital Schools, five receive home tuition, two are in hospital undergoing treatment, two are awaiting admission to a Residential School, and four are awaiting admission to Special Schools. Of the others, three are awaiting placement.

Epileptics

The total number of persons known to the department suffering from this condition are ten, and the following table shows their age and sex :—

Present activity	0-1		2-4		5-15		16-20		21-49		50-64		65-69		70 & over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Employed ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unemployable at present ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Awaiting admission to a colony	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Homes for Epileptics ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

This is undoubtedly an under-estimate of the incidence of the condition in the borough.

Cerebral Palsy

There were known to be seventeen persons suffering from cerebral palsy (spastics) in the area during 1954, and the following table shows their age, sex and movement :—

	0-1		2-4		5-15		16-20		21-49		50-64		65-69		70 & over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Attending normal school ...	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Attending Carlson House School ...	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lea Colony, Bromsgrove	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unemployable at present ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
At home ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Attending Occupation Centre	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receiving Home Tuition ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

One adult woman, suffering from cerebral palsy, died during the year.

Under Section 30 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the authority makes a grant to the Midland Spastic Association which controls and maintains Carlson House School in Birmingham, arranges visits, gives home tuition and looks after the general welfare of the spastics of the town.

Spastics in the group above have other disabilities, as follows :—

Epileptic	...	...	...	2
Partially-sighted	...	...	...	1
Mentally deficient		...	...	3
Deaf	...	...	...	2
Speech defect	...	...	...	3

Removal of persons in need of care and attention

It was found necessary to use these powers on one occasion in 1953 and continue them in this particular case throughout the whole of 1954. The person concerned had not been able, for a considerable time, to care for himself adequately. He had stopped cooking, had eaten meals irregularly, and, in his weak state of health, could not keep himself or his house clean.

Temporary protection of property of persons admitted to hospitals, etc.

The duty of the Council, under Section 48 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to protect the property of patients admitted to hospital or to accommodation under Part III of the Act, has been effected in only one case during the year.

Burial or Cremation of the dead

Under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Council has a duty to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, where no suitable arrangements for disposal have been made. During the year it was found necessary for the Council to arrange four such burials.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the Hygiene and Cleansing Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour and pleasure to present the following report on the work of my Department in the year 1954, although in fact it is a report on the work of my predecessor in office, Mr. W. W. Foakes, who retired in December, 1954, on reaching retirement age and completing 21 years in the service of this Council as Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The report can only indicate briefly the comprehensive nature of the work, which, by statute and otherwise we are required to carry out. To implement the duties of the department fully, additional inspectors are urgently needed. Attention was drawn to this matter in the last report of my predecessor and I am pleased to find that his advice has been accepted and attempts are being made to increase the number.

No settled community can escape the necessity for the prompt removal and hygienic disposal of domestic refuse of all kinds both liquid and solid, and in a highly industrialised community such as we have here in West Bromwich, there is the additional need to deal with trade wastes, both liquid and solid. Incineration on small brick hearths or on bonfires cannot be regarded as satisfactory, for apart from being ineffective in the case of incombustible materials, it adds to the considerable amount of air pollution from other sources. Consequently, it seems that the service which the Council provides for the disposal of domestic solid refuse must ultimately be extended to deal with solid trade waste in the same way that the sewerage system has been extended to deal with trade effluents. In order to conserve the available tipping space for unwanted materials, anything for which a market can be found should be so dealt with through the normal trade channels. There is an obvious case for the recovery of

waste paper and scrap metal, and the salvage of both these materials means less to be imported; this gives national as well as local importance to the matter. I hope to be able to report substantially increased activity in this field of endeavour in my next report.

It will be seen that the fundamentals of life, clean food, clean homes and clean air have almost absorbed all the resources of the department and are likely to continue to do so. The removal of restrictions on the meat trade, although very desirable in many ways, has added a heavy responsibility in connection with the inspection of animal carcasses intended for food. Formerly, all animals were transported to the inspectors stationed at a limited number of slaughtering points. The position has now been reversed, and the meat inspectors are called upon to visit numerous small slaughterhouses at any hour on any day for any number of animals, be they few or many; surely an expensive and wasteful system.

Serious and extensive outbreaks of food poisoning in recent years, and changed feeding habits have focussed attention on the preparation, storage and handling of food at all stages. Much progress has been made in co-operation with food manufacturers and retailers and the extension of pre-packaging to a wide range of foods has considerably reduced handling after manufacture. There remain, however, weaknesses in the distribution chain, particularly in connection with salad vegetables, fish and meat, which have severe and widespread consequences. For example, the very large outbreak of food poisoning in Lancashire in the middle of the year was due to infected meat in meat pies. This outbreak should dispel the widespread belief that cooked meat is necessarily safe meat.

The pattern of local authority housing activity is following very closely that which succeeded the first World War, and the stage has now been reached when some of the energies directed to the provision of additional houses can be diverted to repair and improvement of older houses and to the replacement of those unfit for habitation and ripe for clearance. Intense house-building activity on the outskirts of the town is now giving place to resuscitation, improvement, clearance and re-development at the centre. Before this very necessary and important work in the industrial heart of our town can proceed, a great deal of detailed and careful work will be required from sanitary inspectors and other technical officers. The objective is to secure much needed repair of those houses capable of further service, to encourage improvement to modern standards of those houses which merit it, and to clear away houses unfit for further use, and make better use of the cleared land to the lasting benefit of the town and its people. A first scheme of re-development is being prepared for the congested Lyng Lane Area.

Food and housing quite rightly absorb much of our energies and we may ask how much is left for the supervision and control of air pollution. In an industrial area this vital subject must not be relegated to "if time permits," for the problem is vast and there is

no easy and rapid solution. Progress can only come from constant vigilance and steady work along a properly plotted course. Air pollution is popularly thought of in terms of smoke, but grit and dust are equally serious. All three are present along with industrial and domestic smoke to a greater or lesser degree, in every town in the Black Country. We should devote a major part of our time and energy to "clean our skies" and expunge the word "black" from the description of the industrial area in which we live and work so that our descendants may enjoy unrestricted sunlight, and even we may forget the meaning of the word 'fog.'

The report of the Gowers Committee on Health, Welfare and Safety in Non-Industrial Employment, which was published in 1949, is now commonly accepted as a guide to standards for staff accommodation in offices and certain other workplaces; although it has not the force of law. New legislation embodying these proposals is foreshadowed which will bring office workers under the protection of its provision. This is a reform which is long overdue and which will extend the protection which the sanitary inspector has for long exercised on behalf of both factory and shop workers.

Improved environmental working conditions, including the psychological atmosphere are essential, for upon the human factor depends the success of industry, however, elaborate and extensive the mechanisation.

No department can progress without the confidence and support of the Chairman and members of the responsible committee and I am happy to add to the thanks of my predecessor my own appreciation of the generous support which I have already received not only from the Committee, but also from every chief officer of the Corporation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. CAYTON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector
and
Cleansing Superintendent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

Inspections

The total number of inspections made during the year was 14,753.

Special Housing Inspections	684
Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, etc. ...	1,058
Miscellaneous Inspections	5,665
Re-inspections	2,547
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	17
Houses-let-in-Lodgings	3
Factories	86
Shops and Food Premises	1,807
Bakehouses	56
Dairies	19
Food and Drugs Act visits	447
Smoke Observations and visits in connection with Atmospheric Pollution	468
Slaughterhouses (including Cottagers' Pigs)	1,896
	<hr/>
	14,753
	<hr/>

Complaints Received

628 complaints were received and recorded during the year at the Sanitary Department, all of which were investigated. The number of complaints recorded does not include those made to the Inspectors on the District.

Notices Served

The number of notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year was 689. Of this number 566 were Informal Notices and 123 were Statutory Notices. The total number of houses concerned was 1,018. In addition 31 notices involving 59 houses were served under the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1949.

Improvements effected under the Public Health and Housing Acts

As a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health and Housing Acts, a total of 453 houses was repaired during the year. In addition defects were remedied in a further 156 houses, after the service of formal notices under the Public Health Act. Of this latter number 98 houses were repaired by the owners, and 58 by the Local Authority in default of owners.

Work has continued during the year in connection with the demolition of Unfit Houses, and a total of 10 houses was demolished. 58 Demolition Orders and four Closing Orders were made during the year, and Undertakings were accepted in 23 instances that houses would not be re-let after vacation by the existing tenants.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

Interiors of Houses

Houses re-decorated or cleansed	2
Repairs to plastering, brickwork or woodwork carried out	204
Ventilation provided or improved, windows repaired	111

Exteriors of Houses

Damp external walls—brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material or damp- proof courses inserted	66
Defective roofs made watertight	216
Spouting renewed, repaired or cleansed	98
Chimneys repaired or repointed	56

Yards, Outbuildings and Washing Accommodation

Outbuildings repaired	123
Earthenware sinks provided or existing sinks repaired	18
Dangerous wells or cisterns abolished or suitable covers provided	11
Surface paving provided, renewed or repaired ...	9

Water Supply

Insufficient water supply—remedied	18
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Drainage

Defective drainage relayed or repaired	12
Choked drainage opened or cleansed	124

Sanitary Conveniences

Water closets repaired	84
Defective connections repaired or pedestals renewed	75
Defective flushing apparatus repaired or insufficient water supply remedied	43
Ashpits converted	7

Factories and Workshops

Additional water closet accommodation provided or existing accommodation improved	13
Workrooms redecorated or cleansed	3

Food Premises

Cleansed, repaired or improved	7
	<hr/> 1,300

Court Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936

From the following Table it will be seen that Summonses were issued in three instances, one of which referred to offences in connection with a caravan.

<i>Situation of Premises</i>	<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Section or Bye- law under which proceedings were instituted</i>	<i>Result</i>
36, Poplar Avenue	Dilapidated house	Section 94	Summons withdrawn Costs £1/1/0.
13 & 15, Cross Street	Dilapidated houses	do.	Fined £5/0/0, Costs £3/3/0, work completed.
Crankhall Lane	Nuisance arising from the use of moveable dwelling for human habitation	Section 269	Fined £1/0/0.

Houses-let-in-Lodgings

The number of houses-let-in-lodgings is now five. These have been regularly inspected.

Theatres and Cinemas

There are eight cinemas and one theatre in the Borough, all of which have been regularly inspected.

Factories Act, 1937

86 Inspections were made of factories under the Factories Act, 1937, and 23 notices were served. The following Table gives details of the action taken in these cases:—

	Found	Remedied
Insufficient sanitary accommodation ...	1	1
Defective sanitary accommodation ...	17	10
Not separate for sexes	2	2
Want of cleanliness	3	3

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Work in connection with the baiting of sewers was carried out by Vertical Block Test, and a total of 49 manholes was tested. Of this number 12 manholes registered complete or partial takes.

During the year a total of 315 complaints of infestations of rats and mice was received. In the case of 58 business premises and 227 private dwellings, baits were laid and the premises treated.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are seven premises in the Borough licensed under the Pet Animals Act, 1951. All the premises have been regularly inspected, and a standard laid down when the Act first came into operation, has been well-maintained. There is liaison with the West Bromwich and Smethwick Fire Brigade in view of the possibility of fire and the consequent danger to animals on the premises.

Hairdressers and Barbers

During the year five applications were received for registration under the West Bromwich Corporation Act in connection with the carrying on of the trade or business of hairdresser or barber. All these premises were inspected before registration and a copy of the Byelaws handed to each applicant.

A total of seven inspections was made of premises where the trade of hairdresser or barber was carried on. The number of these premises on the register at the end of the year was 77.

Disinfection

A total of 29 premises was disinfected during the year following cases of infectious disease. The disinfection of bedding from cases of infectious disease continues to be carried out at Black Lake Works and bedding from six cases was dealt with during the year.

Disinfestation

The disinfestation of furniture by HCN has been carried out in eight instances. It appears that owing to the small number of cases being received from the Housing Department, consideration should be given as to whether this service can continue in view of the excessive costs.

In addition to the disinfestation of furniture, 41 houses were disinfested by means of insecticide sprays or smoke generators containing DDT.

During the year 76 houses on Corporation Estates were treated for infestations of cockroaches by means of DDT smoke generators. In all instances the under-floor cavity was treated. Of this number one infestation was heavy in character, and in 38 instances the infestations were only slight. No evidence of cockroach infestation was discovered in the remaining 37 houses.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

As in past years, smoke abatement has occupied a considerable amount of time of the Inspectorial staff, and 210 observations of smoke from factory chimneys were made.

Investigations of complaints relating to industrial nuisances (grit, effluvia, etc.) were also carried out.

As in former years there has been close liaison with the Alkali Works Inspector, and complaints received concerning two industrial premises in the Borough have been forwarded to him.

The following Table gives some indication of the work which has been carried out in connection with industrial nuisances.

<i>Premises</i>		<i>Nuisance</i>	<i>Result</i>
Scrap Yard	...	Smoke from burning off covers from copper cable.	Process discontinued.
Brass Foundry	...	Smoke and fumes from furnaces.	Reduced to minimum after consultations re operation.
Foundry	...	Emission of grit.	Grit filter repaired.
Wire Works	...	Emission of smoke.	New vertical boiler fitted and stack raised. Firing advice given.
Oil Works	...	Fumes from vats.	Reduced after consultation with Manager.
Brickworks	...	Emission of smoke from short brick stacks of blue brick kilns.	2nd new flue constructed to high stack (one flue completed in 1953).
Copper Works	...	Smoke from burning of rubber from insulated copper cables.	Process discontinued until chimney flue cleared.
Demolition site	...	ditto	Process discontinued.
Foundry	...	Smoke emission from muffle furnaces due to improper stoking.	Abated by correct stoking.
Laundry	...	Smoke emission due to improper fuel and improper stoking.	Advice given as to correct fuel and stoking.
Garage	...	Noise nuisance.	Use as workshop discontinued.
Motor Body Manufacturers	...	Emission of Dust.	Dust-arresting cyclone provided.
Stampers	...	Emission of Smoke.	Preheaters provided.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Nuisance</i>	<i>Result</i>
Tube Manufacturers	Emission of Smoke.	Advice given on firing.
Spring Manufacturers	Emission of Smoke.	Electric muffle furnace installed.
Wire drawing mills	Emission of Smoke.	Advice given regarding firing.
Spring Manufacturers	Emission of fine dust.	Additional separator plant installed.
Laundry	Emission of Smoke.	F.R.S. door fitted to vertical boiler.
Slaughterhouse ...	Emission of Smoke.	ditto
Nut and Bolt Manufacturers ...	Emission of Smoke.	Dust arresting plant fitted for induced draught boiler.
Brickworks ...	Smoke emission from boilers and intermittent kilns.	Automatic stokers installed to one kiln. Advice given re boiler firing.
Gas Works ...	Emission of grit from Carburetted Water Gas Plant.	Dust catchers overhauled and repaired. Canopy provided to coke hoppers.
Gas Works ...	Emission of dust during crushing of spent oxide from purifiers.	Oxide trays given soaking in water prior to crushing.
Gas Works ...	Emission of black smoke from Carburetted Water Gas Plant.	Faulty oil-valve replaced. After further complaints plant was closed down until defects remedied.
Red Ash Recovery from disused colliery spoilbank ...	Emission of dust from screening plant.	Screening plant enclosed. As a result of further complaints chute was totally enclosed and screen provided to enclose tipping lorries.
ditto	Emission of dust during digging operations.	Agreed to regulate digging according to weather conditions and wind direction.
Scrap Yard ...	Black smoke from burning of cable insulation (Complaint from adjoining local authority).	Practice not repeated.
Colliery Tip ...	Fire and fumes (Complaint from residents in adjoining authority's area).	Fire dealt with by excavation and blanketting with sand.
Spring Works ...	Smoke emission.	Advice given on boiler firing.
Non-ferrous Foundry	Smoke and fume emission.	New electric arc furnace installed in lieu of pot furnaces in brass foundry.

Atmospheric Pollution Gauges

The recording of atmospheric pollution in co-operation with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was continued during the year.

The use of four deposit gauges for the collection of deposited matter and nine lead peroxide gauges for determining the amount of S.O._3 in the atmosphere, was continued.

Deposit Gauges

The following Table gives the monthly recordings of the deposit gauges, showing the deposited matter in tons per square mile :—

Month			Highfields	Geo. Salter	M.E.B.	Isolation Hospital
January	...	...	17.19	19.4	21.18	10.45
February	...	...	21.78	25.79	29.13	19.52
March	...	...	17.08	34.24	21.49	12.39
April	...	...	7.13	10.78	7.97	9.16
May	...	...	22.8	34.99	13.78	26.02
June	...	...	21.21	21.52	29.37	23.3
July	...	...	55.88	54.2	43.16	54.34
August	...	...	23.74	25.69	—	21.32
September	...	...	31.3	16.37	26.44	14.05
October	...	...	17.4	15.71	24.91	13.94
November	...	...	30.47	35.73	36.72	9.69
December	...	...	9.74	22.25	17.63	8.31
			275.72	316.67	271.78	222.49
MONTHLY AVERAGES						
1949	...	...	—	20.09	24.8	16.37
1950	...	...	—	20.23	23.83	15.36
1951	...	...	—	20.84	22.69	16.15
1952	...	...	—	22.12	15.91	13.82
1953	...	...	16.07	15.43	18.83	14.42
1954	...	...	22.97	26.39	24.70	18.54

The above gauges have been in operation for six years, and the average readings for the whole of the Borough during that period are as follows, expressed in tons per square mile :—

1949	...	20.56	1952	...	18.52
1950	...	19.8	1953	...	16.19
1951	...	20.01	1954	...	23.15

Results of analysis of the deposited matter during the year showed a marked increase in the level of pollution recorded. The increase in average monthly deposit compared with the previous year varied from 4.12 tons per square mile at the Isolation Hospital to 10.96 tons per square mile at George Salter School.

Comparison of the analyst's reports shows that this increase occurred in the soluble deposits, the insoluble material, ash, etc., remaining substantially at the same level. Soluble deposits are naturally influenced by the amount of rainfall occurring and the increase in pollution is probably due to the exceptional amount of rainfall during the year. It will be noted that the exceptionally heavy deposits occurred during July when over 5" of rain fell. The following are the figures of soluble and insoluble deposits recorded at the four stations during that month.

			Soluble		Insoluble
Highfields	...	50.55	tons/sq. mile	5.33	tons/sq. mile
Geo. Salter School		45.74	ditto	8.46	ditto
M.E.B.	...	33.69	ditto	9.46	ditto
Isolation Hospital		48.61	ditto	5.73	ditto

Lead Peroxide Gauges

The weight of Sulphur Trioxide (SO₃) collected in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day is given in the following table :—

Month	Kenrick Park	Highfields	G. Salter School	M.E.B.	Hill Top Park	Isolation Hospital	Rayhall	Red House Park	Dartmouth Park
January ...	3.51	2.64	2.93	2.57	—	2.95	1.82	1.85	—
February ...	3.69	2.95	1.75	2.92	—	2.96	1.43	2.79	—
March ...	3.69	2.16	1.94	2.36	—	2.28	1.5	1.43	—
April ...	1.12	1.46	.86	1.6	1.24	1.46	.72	.33	—
May ...	1.9	1.65	1.97	2.4	1.22	1.94	1.07	1.18	—
June ...	2.35	1.04	1.3	1.76	.87	1.28	.87	.58	1.3
July ...	2.43	.65	1.08	1.76	.74	.98	.56	.74	1.31
August ...	2.09	1.03	1.28	1.59	.82	.98	.85	.49	1.45
September ...	2.94	1.08	1.15	2.4	1.08	.47	1.14	.62	1.67
October ...	3.2	1.6	1.37	1.74	1.06	2.44	1.61	.77	2.26
November ...	4.1	2.47	2.16	3.38	2.12	3.07	2.26	1.44	3.3
December ...	2.02	2.05	1.7	3.23	1.66	2.53	1.6	1.86	2.49
MONTHLY AVERAGES									
1949 ...	2.51	—	1.82	2.1	—	1.87	1.49	1.2	—
1950 ...	2.39	—	1.86	2.12	—	2.09	1.52	1.22	—
1951 ...	2.46	—	1.8	1.83	—	1.93	1.45	1.14	—
1952 ...	2.23	—	1.64	1.87	—	1.84	1.34	1.11	—
1953 ...	2.47	1.57	1.57	2.08	—	1.99	1.35	1.14	—
1954 ...	2.75	1.73	1.62	2.31	1.2	1.94	1.28	1.17	1.97

The average for the year for the whole of the town expressed in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day was :—

1949	...	1.84	1952	...	1.63
1950	...	1.86	1953	...	1.72
1951	...	1.73	1954	...	1.77

The average amount of sulphur pollution has remained at substantially the same level as in previous years. The recordings for the Summer months were somewhat above normal due no doubt to the extra amounts of domestic fuel used during the abnormally cooler weather.

The gauge formerly at Harvills Hawthorn was removed to Dartmouth Park during the year. The instrument at Hill Top Park is that used as a control in connection with emission of sulphur dioxide from a factory in the neighbourhood, the recordings for this station being reported to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in lieu of the Harvills Hawthorn station.

Emission of Zinc Oxide

The measurement of Zinc Oxide emission from a factory dealing with non-ferrous metals was carried on throughout the year.

The results showed that there was a marked reduction in zinc oxide emission compared with the previous year. Although in an isolated instance a deposit of 16.87 lbs. per acre was recorded, this compares favourably with a maximum of 27.91 lbs. per acre for a fortnightly period.

Chemical Works

Analysis of the deposits in a gauge placed in a garden adjoining a works manufacturing Hydrofluoric acid was continued during the year.

Further improvements were effected to the plant during the year.

The average amount of fluorine deposited was 12.97 parts per million, the highest amount recorded being 24.5 parts per million. The pH value of the deposit varied from 2.64 to 6.92.

The results of the analyses were communicated to H.M. Alkali Works Inspector and the management of the firm in question.

Water Supplies

The public water supply is derived from the South Staffs. Waterworks Company and the City of Birmingham Water Department. The water received is treated and was satisfactory both in quantity and quality during the year. Bacteriological examination was made of 23 samples of water, taken from the sources below.

From wells and springs	...	...	...	1
From South Staffs. Waterworks Company				11
From City of Birmingham Supply			...	11

One sample was unsatisfactory but the follow-up sample was satisfactory.

Ten samples of water were taken from the Public Baths, and only in one instance was B.Coli present. In all cases the Baths Superintendent was notified of the results of the examination.

Twenty-three samples of water including one from a deep well were taken for chemical examination. Samples obtained from the City of Birmingham supply were examined for plumbo-solvency and lead dissolved after 48 hours, and all with the exception of one, gave negative results. The follow-up sample to the unsatisfactory sample was satisfactory.

Details of the analysis of the last sample taken are as follows :—

Free and Saline Ammonia ...	...	...	0
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	...	...	0.32
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	...	...	9
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites ...	...	...	0.1
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80 deg. F. in 4 hours ...	...	...	3.6
Total solids dried at 100 deg. C. ...	...	...	260
Nitrite ...	...	...	absent
pH ...	...	...	7.35
Appearance ...	...	...	Bright, few small particles
Plumbo-solvency ...	...	...	0.3 p.p.m. after 24 hours.

The number of dwellinghouses and population supplied with water from the mains is as under :—

	Houses	Population	Percentage
(a) Direct to houses ...	22,502	80,519	90.82
(b) Houses sharing either stand-pipes or common taps ...	2,208	8,131	9.18

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

Meat Inspection

On the termination of meat rationing applications were received from the occupiers of six slaughterhouses for licences to re-open their premises which had been in disuse during the period of meat rationing. After compliance with Schedules of Work submitted to them to bring the premises up to modern standards licences were granted by the Committee in July and the slaughterhouses are now in full use.

Of the three bacon factories already licenced one of the occupiers has re-commenced the slaughter of cattle and sheep.

Nine slaughterhouses in the Borough are now licensed.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

The following Table gives particulars of the incidence of disease in carcasses slaughtered:—

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	814	93	202	—	53,511
Number inspected	814	93	202	1,882	53,511
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	1	45
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	38	25	—	59	2,242
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	4.67	26.88	—	3.18	4.27
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	—	—	26
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	39	22	—	—	920
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	4.91	23.66	—	—	1.77

Cottagers' Pigs

During the year 14 notifications were received of the intended slaughter of Cottagers' Pigs. The number of pigs concerned was 29 and in each case the carcase was inspected.

Hawkers' Vehicles

One vehicle was registered under the West Bromwich Corpora-
tion Act, 1949, for the sale of food; this was inspected and approved.

Inspection of Shops and Food Premises

A total of 1,807 inspections was made during the year.

PRINCIPAL DISEASES AND CONDITIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDEMNATION OF MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS AND WEIGHTS CONDEMNED

	<i>Pounds weight</i>
Abscesses and septic wounds	881
Actinomycosis	40
Arthritis	55
Bone taint	426
Bruising, injuries, etc.	1,652
Cirrhosis	991
Decomposition	220
Distressed and moribund animals ...	1,483
Erysipelas, acute swine	84
Fascioliasis	234
Fever, acute	760
Gangrene	274
Hepatitis	179
Inflammation of serous membranes (pleurisy, peritonitis, pericarditis) ...	5,636
Jaundice	566
Leukaemia	182
Oedema and emaciation associated with disease	774
Parasitic conditions	195
Pneumonia	672
Pyæmia	307
Septic pneumonia and pleurisy — acute	1,580
Septicaemia	64
Telangiectasis	107
Tuberculosis	18,717
Tumours	25
Other diseases and conditions	122
Total weight ...	<u>36,226 pounds</u>

Premises Registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938

Sausage manufacturers	...	...	...	6
Cooked Meat Pie, etc., manufacturers	...			9
Ice Cream manufacturers	...	...		5
Pickle manufacturers	...	...	...	1
Fish friers	...	...	...	91
Ice Cream retailers	...	...	...	230

Food Premises in the area

Slaughterhouses (including bacon factories)				9
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	72
Grocers' shops	...	...	...	113
Greengrocers' shops	...	...	...	62
Confectioners (including sweet confectionery)				79
Fishmongers	...	...	...	12
Cafes, restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	50
Licensed houses	...	...	...	194
Outdoor beer licenses	...	...	...	30
Sweet confectionery manufacturers	...			2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	16
Ice-lolly manufacturers	...	...	...	1
Aerated water manufacturers	...	...		6
Brewers and Bottlers of Beer	...	...		2
Wholesale grocers and provision warehouses				6
General Dealers	...	...	...	184
Synthetic Cream Manufacturers	...	...		1

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food

All meat condemned by the Food Inspectors is collected at a central point; stained in accordance with the Ministry's instructions, and then disposed of to a private concern of high repute manufacturing fertiliser, etc.

The income derived from the sale of this salvage is divided proportionately amongst the butchers concerned.

With regard to other foods (tinned goods, etc.) these are burned or destroyed at the Depot at Black Lake.

CLASSIFICATION AND WEIGHTS OF FOOD CONDEMNED

The inspection of food other than meat, occupies a considerable part of the Inspectors' time, as the following Table giving the classification of food condemned will show:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Pork	14	13	1	13
Beef	1	9	2	5
Mutton & Lamb ...			2	4
Canned & Bottled Goods	3	17	2	26
Preserves			1	1
Dried Fruit		1	0	8
Wet Fish		1	2	17
Shellfish		2	1	8
Poultry			2	2
Frozen egg			1	0
Cheese			2	8
Sweet Confectionery ...			3	21
Miscellaneous			1	27
	20	9	1	0

Ice Cream

There are 25 premises registered for the sale and manufacture of ice cream, but of this number only five actually manufacture ice cream since the advent of the Heat Treatment Regulations.

During the year 22 applications were received for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream and the number of such premises now on the register is 230.

Regular inspections were made of all premises selling ice cream.

61 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination and were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham, the results of the analysis of these samples being as under:—

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
56	3	1	1

The Grade 4 sample was manufactured inside the Borough and visits were made to the premises and advice given to the Manager. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Artificial Cream

There is only one premise registered for the manufacture of artificial cream and the six samples taken for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The number of dealers registered under the above Regulations during the year was 13.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950

A total of 193 dealers, of whom 178 are small shopkeepers, are licensed under these Regulations. Of the remainder nine are dairy companies from neighbouring towns holding supplementary licences in this area.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

The examination of milk samples continued to be carried on by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birmingham. During the year a total of 45 samples were submitted for the methylene blue test, all of which were satisfactory.

Biological Examination of Milk

A total of six samples of milk was taken, all of which were from farms situated in the Borough, and all of which were satisfactory.

Chemical Examination of Milk

Forty samples were taken for chemical analysis during the year and all were satisfactory. The average fat content of the samples was 3.56% and the average solids not fat content 8.65%.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Adulteration of Food and Drugs

During the year 247 samples of food and drugs comprising 43 formal and 204 informal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

The results of the analysis of these samples are given in the following Table :—

		Samples Analysed		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		Milk	Other Foods	Milk	Other Foods	Milk	Other Foods
1st Quarter	...	11	64	11	61	—	3
2nd Quarter	...	9	44	9	40	—	4
3rd Quarter	...	11	44	11	40	—	4
4th Quarter	...	9	55	9	51	—	4
Total	...	40	207	40	192	—	15

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 6.07 compared with 8.30 in the previous year.

List of Adulterated or Unsatisfactory Samples of Food and Drugs

<i>Article</i>	<i>Nature or Extent of Adulteration</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Sponge Mixture Sample No. 1618 Informal	Infested with grubs and cocoons	Manufacturers warned. Stock withdrawn.
Melrose Tablet Sample No. 1636 Informal	Deficient of 90% Boric Acid	Manufacturers warned. Stock withdrawn.
Batter Mixture Sample No. 1650 Informal	Infested with grubs	Manufacturers warned. Stock withdrawn.
Pork Sausage Sample No. 1696 Informal	Deficient of 4% Meat and contained 240 p.p.m. Sulphur Dioxide	Manufacturers warned. Subsequent sample genuine.
Throat Tablets Sample No. 1702 Informal	Unsatisfactory Label	New labels issued. Old stock withdrawn.
Lemonade Powder Sample No. 1709 Informal	Contained excess lead	None in stock for formal sample.
Soft Drink Powder Sample No. 1713 Informal	Contained excess lead	None in stock for formal sample.
Sherbet Sucker Sample No. 1753 Informal	Contained excess lead and copper	None in stock for formal sample.
Seven Rubbing Oils Sample No. 1786 Informal	Unsatisfactory label. Seventh constituent not declared	Labels satisfactorily amended.
Flour Sample No. 1791 Informal	Deficient of 46% of Calcium Carbonate	Referred to Ministry of Food.
Iodine Sample No. 1794 Informal	Deficient of 5.6% Iodine and Potassium Iodide	See Formal Sample No. 1795.
Iodine Sample No. 1795 Formal	Deficient of 5.7% Iodine	Old stock. Manufacturers warned. Line discontinued.
Butter Sample No. 1804 Informal	Contained 2% excess moisture	Manufacturers warned. Subsequent sample genuine.
Pork Sausage Sample No. 1820 Informal	Deficient of 3.26% Meat	Manufacturers warned. Subsequent sample genuine.
Pork Sausage Sample No. 1825 Informal	Deficient of 5.03% Meat	Manufacturers warned. Subsequent sample genuine.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

Eight samples of Fertilisers and four samples of Feeding Stuffs were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst. Four samples of Fertiliser and four of Feeding Stuffs were satisfactory. Appropriate action was taken in the case of four unsatisfactory samples of Fertiliser.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, and Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941

There are 56 names entered on the list of persons entitled to sell poisonous substances included in Part II of the Poisons List.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Two manufacturers of rag flock are licensed by the Corporation and eight premises are registered under the Act. Five samples were taken during the year comprising three samples of rag flock, one sample of cotton felt and one of millpuff, all of which were satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public Conveniences

There are five attended and twelve unattended conveniences in the Borough. Damage has again been done to both attended and unattended conveniences, and repairs have had to be carried out. It is very difficult to discover the perpetrators of this damage.

Refuse Collection

A fleet of twelve vehicles, comprising four Lewin Refuse Compressing vehicles, four Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft tipping vehicles and four side-loading vehicles, is used for the collection of domestic and trade refuse. A vacuum pump is used for the removal of cesspool contents and an Austin three-way loading van provides a special collection of paper from business premises.

The increased value of waste paper and rags in particular, has made the slogan "Burn your refuse and Reduce your Rates" no longer valid, but the necessity to confine the contents of the dustbin to dry refuse still holds. The combination of domestic ashes and moisture slowly destroys the galvanising on the interior of the bin and reduces its useful life very materially. Vegetable refuse and tea-leaves contribute a good deal of this moisture, but when added to the garden rubbish heap they can form a valuable compost and help to restore the soil humus which is so essential for good results in the garden. In addition, the dustbin will be much less attractive to the house-fly.

Once again I extend my thanks to Mr. A. Witcomb Smith, the Transport Manager, and his staff, for their help and co-operation in maintaining the fleet of vehicles during the past year.

Refuse Disposal

Low-lying water-logged ground at Sinkhole Farm is being steadily reclaimed for use as agricultural land or playing fields. In this way domestic and industrial refuse is being made to serve a useful purpose. Only a very small amount of refuse which cannot conveniently and safely be deposited on the tip is incinerated at the Black Lake Depot.

Provision of Dustbins

Satisfactory refuse containers are the foundation of refuse collection. No satisfactory alternative to the galvanised bin has yet been found despite the use of paper bagging, plastic and aluminium alloys for a wide variety of purposes. The replacement of worn and unserviceable bins continues as a Rate Charge, and with improved supplies coming from the manufacturers it may shortly be possible to consider varying bin sizes to meet the particular needs of small dwellings where a slightly smaller bin is sufficient and hospitals and schools where large containers are more appropriate.

Cesspools

There is now a total of 46 cesspools in the Borough and all these were regularly cleansed.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal

Total number of premises from which refuse was collected	...	...	...	...	26,066
Total number of loads of refuse collected	...				11,827
Total tonnage of refuse collected	...	...			32,508
Total tonnage collected from cesspools	...				1,227
Gross cost of collection	...	...	...		£45,505
Gross cost of disposal	...	...	...	...	£8,352
Gross cost per ton of collection	...	...	...	£1 7s 11.95d	
Gross cost per ton of disposal	...	...	...	5s 1.66d	
Gross cost of collection and disposal per ton	...	£1 13s 1.61d			
Net cost of collection and disposal per ton	...	£1 11s 0.66d			
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 population	...	...	...	£569 7s 11.16d	
Net cost of collection and disposal from each premise per annum	...	...	...	£1 18s 8.76d	

Output of Refuse per annum (excluding cesspool contents)

Output	1951	1952	1953	1954
Per 1,000 of population ...	285.74 tons	328.35 tons	373.83 tons	352.85 tons
Per house ...	20.99 cwts.	23.57 cwts.	26.24 cwts.	24 cwts.

Recovery of Waste and Dormant Materials

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and the income received is as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper (various grades)	273	10	2	0	2,039	15	11
Baled Ferrous Scrap ...	35	12	2	0	160	9	6
Non-Ferrous Scrap ...		6	2	0	22	2	6
Bones		3	2	0	1	0	2
Kitchen Waste	79	7	0	0	307	9	8
	389	0	0	0	£2,530	17	9

The total of salvage collected and income received from 1944 to 1954 was as under:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
1944	1,587	14	0	0	4,619	12	1
1945	1,307	2	0	0	3,807	2	1
1946	1,430	6	0	0	4,750	16	4
1947	1,415	13	2	0	4,596	15	1
1948	1,383	16	1	0	4,894	0	2
1949	1,139	11	2	0	4,622	15	6
1950	880	9	1	0	3,168	4	6
1951	1,029	1	2	22	8,030	9	3
1952	1,084	1	1	14	6,784	16	6
1953	773	19	2	17	3,947	19	10
1954	389	0	0	0	2,530	17	9
	12,420	15	0	25	£51,753	9	1